

Jordan Times

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U.S. peace activists in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A group of 20 American religious figures and peace activists arrived Saturday carrying a shipment of medicines and hoping to secure the release of some of the U.S. citizens held after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The team comprises members of the New York-based Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It said they would spend one week in Iraq and meet with officials, but did not mention any names. The 75-year-old Fellowship of Reconciliation is a non-denominational religious group committed to non-violent solutions to world problems. The Americans included Christian, Jewish and Muslim personalities. They flew in from Amman, where they met during a three-day stay with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Douglas Hostetter, the leader of the delegation and the organization's executive director, said in Amman that they have made through the Iraqi embassy in Washington requests for meetings with Iraqi officials as well as American citizens.

Iran discusses Gulf security plan

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian leaders Saturday discussed a plan for Gulf states to safeguard regional security and make foreign intervention "totally unacceptable," the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the Supreme National Security Council "took necessary decisions on issues discussed." The brief report of the meeting was the first mention of any formal plan for a regional security arrangement. Iran has strongly criticized both Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and a U.S.-dominated foreign military buildup, mostly in neighboring Saudi Arabia. It says regional security should be a matter for countries in the area. President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani presided over the meeting of the council, the top policymaking body during the Gulf crisis. Iran has no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, the strongest military power in the Gulf after Baghdad and Tehran.

Jaber sends message to Moroccan king

RABAT (R) — Kuwait's deputy foreign minister met King Hassan of Morocco Saturday for talks on the Gulf crisis, officials said. Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad said on his arrival on Friday he would give the king a message from the exiled emir of Kuwait. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Sheikh Nasser expressed satisfaction with Rabat's stance. Morocco was the first Arab state to condemn Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and has sent several thousand troops to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. On Tuesday King Hassan held talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. No details of their meeting were revealed.

China urges Japan not to send troops to Gulf

BEIJING (R) — China urged Japan Saturday not to send members of its Self-Defence Force to the Gulf as memories of its military past were still strong in Asia. "Japan's militarism started a war of aggression which brought great disaster to the people of China and Asia. It is still fresh in people's memories," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement broadcast on state radio and television. "It is very reasonable for people to react strongly against this," the statement said, referring to a decision by the Japanese cabinet this week to send armed personnel into conflict abroad for the first time since World War II. China called on the government of Tokyo to consider and handle the issue carefully.

Algerian children protest U.S. policy

ALGIERS (AP) — About 1,000 children and teenagers marched on the U.S. embassy and threatened a holy war against the United States once they grew up. The demonstration came after Friday prayers. The young Algerians sported long robes and skull caps habitually worn by followers of the politically powerful Islamic Salvation Front. In a letter submitted to embassy officials, the children expressed their solidarity with young people in Iraq they fear will starve from the U.N.-imposed embargo against Baghdad. "Today, we are still young and only want to reproach your nation," the letter said. "Tomorrow, when we've grown up, we will proclaim a holy war against you to defend our faith and religion."

Soviet oil experts visit Iraqi sites

BAGHDAD (R) — Three senior Soviet officials visited oil installations in southern Iraq Saturday to assess how long hundreds of Soviet technicians might be needed. The Baghdad embassy sources told Reuters the three men from the Soviet Oil Ministry were in Iraq to determine the need for technicians from the Soviet Union which backs U.N. sanctions against Baghdad following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi News Agency reported Friday the arrival of the Soviet delegation, naming one of its members as Nikolay Lav. It did not give any details about the aim of the visit.

Shutro barred from holding rally

LAHORE (R) — Sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been refused permission to hold the final rally of her election campaign in Pakistan's political heartland of Lahore. But Bhutto and her allies in the Pakistan Democratic Alliance (PDA) said Saturday they would go ahead with a march and a rally in the Punjab capital. Her main political foe in the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) has received approval for a gathering at the city's historic Lahore Gate Monday, the last day allowed for campaigning before Wednesday's national elections. The Lahore administration said Saturday it gave permission to the Benazir Bhutto alliance led by Nawaz Sharif and caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

Jordan, despite adverse impact, committed to principles — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan extended facilities to some 800,000 evacuees who fled Kuwait after the Iraqi takeover of that country and spent nearly \$50 million but received a mere \$4 million to help it cover its losses in that process, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday. "The Jordanian people, with all their organizations, hosted the evacuees, but Jordan has suffered a lot from the current (trade) embargo (on Iraq) which is in fact imposed on Jordan as well," the Prince said in an interview with Sudanese Television. Jordan, he added, is implementing all U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq. "Why then should it be exposed to pressure," asked the Prince. "The current alliance against Iraq seems to be directed against Jordan as well," he said. "Nevertheless, Jordan is committed to its principles," he said. In reply to a question the Prince said that the Western campaign against Iraq preceded the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and the Western alliance had been talking about Iraq's military power, its chemical weapons and other aspects. "Indeed, there was an international game either to destroy Iraq or to evict Iraq from Kuwait," he said. "But Iraq had accepted international legitimacy and in its Aug. 12 initiative said that it was ready to withdraw its forces from Kuwait in exchange for guarantees that it will not be subject to attack," the Crown Prince noted. Jordan is against (Iraq's) annexation (of Kuwait) and cannot also accept the annexation of Jerusalem and Arab lands by Israel and is pained to see Arabs fighting each other," the Prince added. Referring to the Palestine question, the Prince said that the Jordanian people had been living through the problem over the past 23 years and the past three years of the intifada. "The Jordanians are pained to see 45,000 Palestinians injured and 800 killed in their struggle to liberate their land," the Prince said. Jordan is different from other Arab countries since it is close to the people of Palestine and is directly affected by the Palestine problem," he noted. The Crown Prince criticized the massing of troops in the Gulf and the "double standards" in dealing with the problems of the Middle East region. He said that a very large army had been massed to attack Iraq in a short period of time while the Security Council took a whole week to condemn Israel's killing of Arabs in the Holy City of Jerusalem on Oct. 8. (Continued on page 3)

U.N. not to send team without Israeli consent

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says he will not send envoys to investigate the Oct. 8 massacre of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem unless Israel decides to cooperate. But he gave the United States and other countries more time Friday to try to reverse opposition by the Israeli government, which claims allowing the U.N. team in would call into question Israel's "sovereignty" over the city. Stepping up the pressure, the U.N. chief said that if Israel does not cooperate, he may have no recourse but to report to the Security Council only on ways to protect Palestinians from Israeli abuses. "The only thing on which I can report if my mission does not go to the area is on the protection and the safety of the Palestinians," he said. Over 20 Palestinians were killed Oct. 8 when Israeli forces opened fire during and after a protest in which Palestinians stoned Jews at the Haram Al Sharif complex. "I cannot send the mission if I am not persuaded that the mission will not get all the necessary facilities in order to complete their mission, their job," said Perez de Cuellar. But he added: "I am always prepared to send the mission if the mission is given the facilities they need to present an independent report." Perez de Cuellar said he was not pursuing further efforts to win Israeli cooperation, but noted he believes "some countries would like to exert some influence on the Israelis so that they end up by accepting the mission."

Gazans continue violent protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded at least nine Palestinians during overnight clashes in Deir Al Balah refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip, hospital officials said Saturday. The officials said earlier that 40 Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in clashes with Israeli soldiers Friday at Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. An American United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) field officer was among 95 people treated for tear-gas inhalation during the Khan Younis clashes, they said. The agency named the officer as Jack Meyer, 34. The hospital officials said his Palestinian driver, Abdul Al Raouf Issa, 45, hit in the head by a rubber bullet. Palestinian sources said the army imposed a curfew on Khan Younis and the centre of Gaza City Saturday to prevent more protests and maintained curfews on Jabalya refugee camp and the Beit Lahya housing project. In Ramallah in the West Bank, Palestinian sources said a military jeep was gutted by a petrol bomb thrown during clashes. Troops retaliated by closing shops and declaring Ramallah a closed military area, they said. There were no reports of injuries. Meanwhile, a retired Palestinian high school principal was found gagged, bound and stabbed to death Saturday in the occupied

Assad pledges support for Lebanon after toppling Aoun

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Saturday pledged full support for President Elias Hrawi's efforts to reunite Lebanon following the toppling of rebel General Michel Aoun. "President Assad affirmed that Syria would extend every assistance needed in the future to help Lebanon achieve reconciliation and restore stability," Syrian presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said. Hrawi, who requested Syrian help in dislodging Aoun last weekend, had two private meetings with Assad Saturday. He arrived in Damascus earlier in the day. Officials said the talks dealt with the Lebanese government's plans to disband militias, form a new government, extend its authority over militia-controlled areas and free South Lebanon from Israeli control. Aoun, who controlled one third of a Christian enclave in Beirut and challenged Hrawi's authority, took refuge in the French embassy last Saturday after a Syrian-led military assault on his headquarters. More than 500 people were killed in the attack. The Syrian presidential spokesman said Hrawi thanked Assad and the Syrian armed forces "for responding to the request by the Lebanese legitimacy to end the (Aoun) rebellion and open the door for restoring Lebanon's unity."

King receives Omani message on efforts to resolve Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman on the Gulf crisis. The message was delivered by Oman's Information Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rawwas. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the message covered "current efforts on the Arab and international levels to achieve a political settlement to the Gulf crisis." Rawwas, who left after meeting the King at the Royal Court, was quoted by Petra as saying that his visit here was part of continued contacts between Oman and Jordan aimed at safeguarding higher Arab interests. Rawwas expressed hope that the concerned parties "will arrive at a settlement (to the Gulf crisis) that would safeguard their interests and restore rights to their owners and also restore strong inter-Arab relations." Upon his arrival here the Omani minister was met by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin and Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ben Sultan Al Busaid. It was the first political message from Oman to Jordan on the Gulf situation after Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2. Oman is a member of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. Oman, along with fellow GCC members, has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and supports the American-led military presence in Saudi Arabia.

Nearly 10,000 in New York demand U.S. troops quit Gulf

NEW YORK (R) — From mothers pushing strollers to World War II veterans in wheelchairs, nearly 10,000 people rallied and marched in New York Saturday demanding the United States withdraw its troops from the Gulf. The protest, under the slogan "Hell no, we won't go. We won't fight for Texaco," was the largest demonstration so far against U.S. involvement in the Gulf and reflects a growing national debate. Similar rallies were planned in other major U.S. cities Saturday. More than two dozen speakers, representing interest groups ranging from gay rights to Vietnam veterans against war, sent a message to President George Bush that war in the Gulf was not necessary. David Cline of the Vietnam veterans group told Bush: "You were wrong in Panama, you were wrong in Nicaragua, you were wrong in Angola, you were wrong in Grenada, you were wrong in Libya, and now you are wrong in the Middle East." The rally was largely peaceful but a police spokesman who estimated the crowd at just under 10,000, said: "We are prepared for violence." He said 300 police officers were on hand and would move with the march along New York streets. Three people were arrested. Paul Albert, 67, of New York, who lost a leg in World War II and now rides in a motorized wheelchair, said he planned to join the marchers to show his support. "This is the war, the wrong time and the wrong place," he said. Albert, who fought in Europe under General George Patton, said he was offended by comparisons of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to Hitler. As he looked around and saw many students, he said: "I feel good that there is a new generation that will not be sent off to war for a thing like oil." Across the street from the protest rally, seven counter-protesters held up an American flag and signs that said: "support U.S. troops abroad."

Thatcher meets Primakov, continues to talk tough

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told a Soviet envoy Saturday she rejected any compromise over the Gulf crisis and said Britain would not help Iraq save face. "The prime minister took a firm line, saying that (Iraq) must get out of Kuwait and that it was not for us to save (its) face," a spokesman said of Thatcher's talks with Moscow's envoy, Yevgeny Primakov. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "got himself into a jam (difficult situation) and had to get himself out," the spokesman quoted Thatcher as saying. Primakov, a member of President Mikhail Gorbachev's inner council, has been briefing Western leaders about his Oct. 6 meeting with Saddam. Primakov has said Saddam could be willing to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis provided the West did not set ultimatums or threaten military action. After Primakov's visit to Iraq, the Soviet news agency Novosti said Saddam was prepared to quit Kuwait if he could keep an oil field and two offshore islands which would expand Iraq's limited access to the sea. Baghdad denied the report. Primakov, who also briefed Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, has been on a mission to avoid war in the Gulf. He arrived in London from talks in Washington, Paris and Rome where he gave similar briefings. Thatcher's spokesman said Primakov told her the Soviet Union, Baghdad's former ally and main arms supplier, was not suggesting Iraq should be allowed to gain from its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. (Continued on page 4)

Iraqis fill up vehicles ahead of fuel rationing

BAGHDAD (R) — Petrol stations ran dry as thousands of Iraqi motorists jammed the streets Saturday in a rush to fill up before rationing. Quotas were due to be set Sunday but some oil officials said privately that the weekly allocation for each car would be 25 litres (5.5 gallons). Motorists flocked to petrol distribution centres across the country after Iraq, acknowledging for the first time that the U.N. trade blockade over its invasion of Kuwait was starting to bite, said rationing would start next Tuesday. Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi told a news conference Friday the reason for the rationing of petrol and lubricating oil was to "ensure that we will have enough of the additives and chemicals required to make these products for as long as possible." Hours later thousands of vehicles crowded petrol stations and jammed streets until early Saturday morning. Some stations ran out of petrol but employees said they expected more deliveries soon. Iraqi authorities urged people not to stockpile petrol. The oil ministry's energy consultative commission said in a statement published in newspapers that supplies would be sufficient to satisfy "necessary requirements." Chalabi said the rationing would apply to all government vehicles but kerosene, diesel, and liquefied gas would be exempt, he added. Baghdad newspapers quoted an oil ministry source as saying lubricating oil for agricultural vehicles would be distributed without rationing coupons. The government has been encouraging farmers to plant various types of crops to compensate for the expected shortages in grain because of the U.N. blockade. Iraq introduced food rationing in September. A Baghdad-based diplomat said his embassy would ask the Foreign Ministry how diplomats could obtain their petrol. Chalabi did not say whether diplomatic and foreign cars with special number plates would also be affected. Kuwait, proclaimed as Iraq's 19th province after the Aug. 2 invasion, escaped rationing. It was not listed among the 18 provinces affected by the restrictions. Chalabi said Iraq's oil production had fallen to 350,000 to 400,000 barrels a day and said Baghdad was not tapping Kuwait's reserves. Iraq owns the world's second largest proven oil reserves. It exported 2.8 million barrels a day of crude and refined oil products before the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Aug. 6. On Thursday, Iraq offered to sell oil at \$21 a barrel, the price set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in July. The current price of crude is about \$34 a barrel.

U.S. to beef up its Gulf force with topline tanks

DHAHRAN (Agencies) — The United States is shifting several hundred of its best tanks from Europe to Saudi Arabia to counter Iraq's battle-seasoned armoured units, which outnumber the multinational force in the desert. The advanced M1A1 main battle tanks, equipped with a more powerful 120-millimetre gun, will be in Saudi Arabia "by the end of the year," replacing older M1s that were brought from the United States, a spokesman said. The disclosure came after a U.S. television reported Friday that the U.S. needs at least two more tank divisions, totalling about 100,000 army troops, before it would be ready to launch an offensive against Iraq. A statement by the U.S. command here said the M1A1s were being drawn from prepositioned storage in Europe. Despite the transfer, it said, they would continue to be counted as part of the U.S. strength level permitted under the pending treaty on conventional forces in Europe. The treaty, to be signed by the end of this year, calls for military cutbacks by both North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Warsaw Pact forces. The U.S. television network CBS News, citing Defence Department officials, reported that a buildup of two tank divisions would nearly double the number of U.S. army troops in Saudi Arabia. CBS said it would take up to two months to move the necessary personnel and equipment of the Gulf. The report said the army has identified the divisions that would be sent, but added that the officials stressed no decision has yet been made to move in enough forces for an offensive strike. Without the two added divisions, the U.S. buildup in the Gulf, when completed next month, will put about 250,000 service men and women — including soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines — in and around Saudi Arabia. But CBS said computer projections that pit that force against the 430,000 Iraqi troops in the region predict what once officer called "a long slow fight you might not win" with casualties estimated at 20,000 Americans dead or wounded. The two additional divisions would mean a quicker war, with fewer casualties and better chances of victory, CBS said. U.S. officials in Saudi Arabia said the transfer of tanks from Europe would cost about \$4.8 million. No personnel will be moved with the tanks, they said. The M1A1s will provide "improved capabilities" over the M1 Abrams tanks. The commander of the 197th brigade, Colonel Ted Reid, whose troops may receive some of the new tanks, said the highly-mechanised Iraqi forces were not to be taken lightly. "They've got tanks, plenty of them... it's not a second rate country. It's not going to be a walkover," he said in a field interview.

Heath arrives in Iraq, says no political objectives

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath arrived in Baghdad Saturday to negotiate the release of elderly and ailing Britons held by Iraqi authorities. Heath, who stopped briefly in Amman on his way to Baghdad, was to meet Sunday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the first prominent Western politician to meet with the Iraqi leader. He was met at Baghdad's airport by unidentified Iraqi officials and the British ambassador to Iraq as he arrived aboard a scheduled Iraqi Airways commercial flight from Amman. Heath, 74, spoke briefly with reporters, saying his mission was "only humanitarian." Asked if he would hold political talks with Iraqi officials, he said: "No, I have no plan to do that." The Iraqi government has not made clear who will see Heath other than his scheduled meeting Sunday with Saddam to seek release of the at least 53 British nationals who are known to be sick and disabled, according to the British embassy. Other reports say there are 70 disabled and ill Britons detained in Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. "I shall limit myself to those who want to return home," Heath told reporters. "I'm not a member of any government. I don't pass messages." Heath, conservative prime minister from 1970 to 1974, created a storm in Britain last month when he urged world leaders to negotiate with Iraq to avoid war in the Gulf. His trip has drawn fire from ministers in the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who has sent troops to the Gulf and taken one of the toughest lines in the West against Iraq. Heath said criticism of his mission was mistaken and he would not let himself be used as a propaganda tool. He would not say how many he hoped would be freed but said he planned to leave Baghdad on Monday "if everything is well." His Majesty King Hussein met with Heath Friday night.

Arar: APU talks characterised by unified views, brotherly atmosphere

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting in Baghdad by Arab parliamentarians to discuss the Gulf crisis and the situation in the occupied Arab territories has called for the creation of Al Aqsa People's Army to liberate the occupied Arab lands and the holy places, according to Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sulaiman Arar.

Speaking upon returning to Amman from the Iraqi capital after taking part in the meeting at the head of a Jordanian delegation, Arar said that the two-day meeting was characterised by a "brotherly atmosphere, with all views unified on the condemnation of the massacre of the Palestinian people by the Israeli

troops near Al Aqsa mosque." "The meeting has issued a statement calling for continued struggle by the Palestinians and support for the uprising in the occupied Arab land until an independent Palestinian state has been established on Palestine soil," Arar said.

He said that the meeting also condemned the current embargo imposed on Iraq and the presence of colonial forces in Saudi Arabia.

Returning with Arar was Abdul Aziz Belkhadem, speaker for the Algerian National Assembly, who attended the meetings in Baghdad and is beginning a three-day visit to Jordan.

Belkhadem said that the Baghdad meeting had issued recommendations designed to unify Arab ranks towards achieving common goals.

Referring to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Belkhadem said that Israel's oppression requires a collective Arab action which can put an end to Israel's crimes and ensure freedom for the Palestinian people.

Collective action, he said, is also needed to end the ongoing attempt to starve the Iraqi people.

Taking part in the meetings were parliamentarians from Iraq, Libya, Palestine and Yemen in addition to Jordan and Algeria.

Government to facilitate return of Gulf expatriates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Saturday moved to facilitate procedures for Jordanian expatriates returning home with their belongings, especially if they return to Jordan for permanent stay.

A statement issued here said that customs centres at border posts were to be regarded as clearing offices in order to speed up clearance procedures.

The following customs centres will be entrusted with clearing furniture and home appliances: Rweished, Qweishah, Sahab industrial zone, Aqaba, Queen Alia International Airport and the free zone in Zarqa, according to the statement.

At least 100,000 Jordanians have already returned to the Kingdom following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis on Aug. 2, according to local news reports and columnists in daily newspapers.

In its circular to these customs offices, the government urged that clearance of Jordanian expatriates' belongings should be speeded up as soon as possible and that trucks carrying furniture should be distributed to other centres if congestion was reported at any of these centres.

The Jordanian government has already taken measures to help the returning expatriates in other ways, according to press reports. Thousands of students have been admitted into Jordanian schools, community colleges and universities and many of them, especially smaller children, have been admitted without producing certified documents as they were unable to obtain them before fleeing Kuwait.

According to sources at the Ministry of Higher Education, nearly 100 students have already enrolled at the four Jordanian universities.

CAEU meeting reviews economic integration

AMMAN (Petra) — Joint Arab projects implemented through the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) should be allowed to show results and to benefit Arab countries regardless of developments in the Arab World, said Hassan Ibrahim, the CAEU's secretary general.

"These joint projects have been engineered in order to enable the Arab countries to reduce their dependence on foreign nations and to increase inter-Arab economic and trade dealings," said Ibrahim in an address at the opening of a CAEU companies meeting here.

Ibrahim urged Arab states to invest more in Arab projects in a bid to help promote inter-Arab economic integration. He said "attaining the aims of the Arab

common market is working towards the formation of a pan-Arab unity which would bind the Arab countries closer together socially, economically and politically."

The two-day meeting is scheduled to discuss a host of subjects, contained in a report prepared by the Amman-based CAEU and several working papers submitted by the delegates.

Delegates taking part in the meeting represent the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA), the Arab Mining Company (AMCO), the Arab Company of Livestock Development and the Arab Company for Industrial Development as well as permanent representatives of the Arab member states.

Malaria eradicated in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry has succeeded in eradicating malaria from Jordan, but the malaria section at the ministry continues to monitor the situation to prevent a comeback.

In its drive to ensure primary health care, the Ministry of Health operates mother and child care centres around the country, aimed at raising the standard of social and health services, according to Maabreh.

As part of the preventive medicine programme, the ministry also regulates the flow of non-Jordanian workers into the country to stop malaria from entering the Kingdom, Maabreh added.

The Ministry of Health has also been active in implementing an anti-tuberculosis programme, and has succeeded in controlling the disease. "They are moving ahead now with steps to completely eradicate tuberculosis from the country," Maabreh said.

He said that tuberculosis, which once prevalent in the south, is no longer a national problem for Jordan.

In its drive to ensure primary health care, the Ministry of Health operates mother and child care centres around the country, aimed at raising the standard of social and health services, according to Maabreh.

He said that the ministry had adopted a policy of opening a health centre for every 2,000 inhabitants in rural and urban regions so as to reduce the pressure on hospitals in the cities. These centres provide treatment, he said, and also give advice to families on means of combatting polio, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, tuberculosis and other common illnesses and child diseases. The centres also provide vaccination free of charge.

UNDP official arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Nour, assistant administrator and Regional director of the Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes (RBASEP), arrived in Jordan on Oct. 20, 1990 on an official visit, where he will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal and other high officials in planning and development affairs.

Dr. Nour is a member of many professional organisations, including the Association of Applied Biologists of the United Kingdom and the Philosophical Society of Sudan. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Tropical Science Journal of the United Kingdom. He has received honorary awards from Egypt and Sudan.

Dr. Nour began his professional career as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Khartoum from 1957 to 1969 and served as deputy vice chancellor from 1962 to 1964. In 1969 he became minister of agriculture. He began his United Nations career in 1970, serving as assistant director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), where he was responsible for the Near East and North Africa region. Prior to assuming his present post with UNDP, Dr. Nour was director-general of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Book on Jordan formally presented

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The book entitled "To Jordan" was formally presented on Saturday Oct. 20 at the Royal Cultural Centre. The book was written by the former Italian ambassador's wife to Jordan, Valdimira Rossi Longhi, and Giuseppe Recchia.

During the presentation, which was attended by around 50 people, the writers said they were happy to write the book and to present it to the people of Jordan. "We did not write the book, the people of Jordan did," Recchia said.

The book was written in about two months and will be out in the bookstores sometime next week. It sells at a retail price of JD 14.

CORRECTION

AMMAN — Due to a typographical error, a statement attributed to C. Douglas Hostetter, the head of an American peace delegation, appeared distorted in yesterday's edition of the Jordan Times. The words, quoted in the article "American activists arrive on war prevention mission" should have read: "to tell them that we are not their enemies..." instead of "...to tell them that we are their enemies..." The Jordan Times apologises for the error.

Masri reiterates Jordan's stand on Gulf, condemns Israeli practices

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has renewed a call to the world community to find a peaceful settlement for the Gulf crisis and has reiterated the Kingdom's total opposition to the presence of foreign forces in the Arabian peninsula.

"Jordan can by no means accept the presence of foreign forces which are there for the first time in Islamic history, and can by no means accept the fact that the Islamic holy places in the peninsula and Palestine remain under foreign domination," the head of Jordan's delegation to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Uruguay said.

Addressing the conference, Taher Al Masri said "His Majesty King Hussein had been exerting strenuous efforts to reach a peaceful settlement in the Gulf, but regrettably these efforts have been met with resistance and rejection from the Western nations which have always been preaching dialogue and political and peaceful solutions for all

problems." The IPU conference, Masri said, should discuss the Gulf crisis in an objective manner away from any narrow-mindedness and in total neutrality.

He said that Jordan had been strongly committed to the international legitimacy whenever any international issues cropped up because "Jordan believes in in-admissibility of seizing other countries' territory by force."

"Jordan has paid dearly for being committed to this principle, and for adhering to U.N. resolutions," he added. Referring to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Masri said that Israel, earlier this month, had killed in one hour 21 Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others in confrontation with Arabs trying to prevent Jewish zealots from demolishing Al Haram Al Sharif to build a Jewish temple in its place.

"In defiance of the world community Israel has now rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution and declared its total refusal to

accept a U.N. appointed inquiry mission to investigate the killings," said Masri in his address.

He said that the world community was doing nothing to stop Israel's atrocities, to end injustice in Palestine, and to implement the U.N. resolutions, including 242, which remain unimplemented despite the lapse of 23 years since the Security Council issued them.

Referring to parliamentary life in Jordan, Masri spoke about the recent developments and the democratisation process in the Kingdom.

He said that despite its orientation towards democracy, the Jordanian people continues to confront Israel's conspiracies which are blocking the Arab World's path towards pan-Arab unity.

He said that the colonial powers had planted Israel in the midst of the Arab World for the purpose of maintaining their domination on the Arabs, politically and economically, and of achieving their own imperialist objectives.

Jordan bars shipment of medicine to Iraq

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian government Saturday turned back two commercial shipments carrying medicine destined for Iraq for the first time since economic sanctions were imposed on Baghdad after its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

According to a senior official at a Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturing company, the badia police stopped the company's three trucks at the Jordanian-Iraqi border and ordered them to return to Amman.

"The police said they had orders not to allow any shipments going to Iraq and turned back the trucks," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

He said it was the first time a shipment carrying medicine was banned from leaving Jordan for Iraq after the United Nations imposed trade sanctions on Baghdad. "Medicine was supposed to be exempted from the embargo," he said.

Another similar shipment, from a different company, was also turned back, sources said. No official of the company was available for comment.

It was also the second time the Jordanian authorities had stopped shipments of goods that were understood to be exempted from the sanctions. Last week, the government had stopped charity shipment

of food, milk and medicine destined for Iraq from the General Union of Voluntary Societies until an approval was granted from the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council.

Representatives from the two pharmaceutical manufacturers are expected to meet with U.N. representatives in Jordan Sunday to secure approval to send the medicine shipments to Iraq.

Jordanian pharmaceuticals continued to send shipments to Iraq, a major importer of Jordanian medicine, after the sanctions were imposed.

The company official said his company exported up to three shipments a week to Iraq, thirty tonnes each, after the sanctions were imposed. Iraq used to import 25 per cent of Jordanian pharmaceutical production, he said.

Saudi Arabia — upset with Jordanian public support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis — has stopped the imports of medicine from Jordan. But according to sources, negotiations with the Saudis were under way to resume the imports.

Saudi Arabia also imports about 25 per cent of Jordanian pharmaceutical products.

Representatives from the two companies whose shipments were turned back have complained to government officials about the ban. According to the company official, the firms were told that it

was government policy to ensure that no shipments went to Iraq, in line with Jordan's compliance with the sanctions.

Jordan has come under heavy criticism for opposing the U.S.-led military intervention in the Gulf. It has also come under a close watchful eye after reports in the West alleged that the Kingdom was hustling the sanctions despite the government's repeated statements that it did comply with U.N. Resolution 661, which imposed the sanctions.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Thursday that the Bush administration believed that Jordan was honouring its pledge to honour the resolution. A U.N. envoy, Jean Ripert, who visited Jordan earlier this month has also reported that the Kingdom was honouring the sanctions except for the purchase of oil from Iraq as settlement of Baghdad's debts to Amman.

Jordan has appealed for inter-faith aid to compensate for its losses incurred as a result of its compliance with the embargo on Iraq, Jordan's main trading partner. Finance Minister Basel Jaraneb said that the Kingdom needs at least \$1.5 billion by the end of this year to avoid an economic catastrophe. Only a trickle of the needed aid has come in from Japan and Germany.

IOM expects thousands to flee Iraq and Kuwait

AMMAN (R) — A relief agency said Saturday it expected up to 40,000 foreigners to flee Iraq and Kuwait soon and appealed for urgent donations to help fly them home.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said in a statement that \$27 million were needed of which it could have to find half.

"The IOM estimates that between 25,000 and 40,000 foreign residents of Iraq and Kuwait remain in need of international repatriation in the short term," it added.

The IOM said the estimate covered "those who are known

to desire repatriation and who are able to travel" but added that precise data were hard to come by.

"Assuming that current arrangements continue, whereby IOM covers half of the cost of internationally-financed repatriations and the EC (European Community) the other half, IOM will need \$13.5 million for this purpose," it added.

The IOM said it had flown some 122,307 people since September 3, including 114,633 from Jordan. The rest were repatriated from Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath said Saturday King Hussein had told him that 708,000 evacuees had passed through Jordan since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2.

Jordanian officials say the influx has eased. Desert camps which housed thousands of Asian refugees are now almost empty.

The IOM asked international donors to pay what they had pledged. "This is particularly pressing as IOM's commitments already exceed the total pledges by some \$500,000."

It said it had received only \$36.7 million of the \$60.7 million promised.

French envoys leave

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-member French parliamentary delegation left for home Saturday following a three-day visit to Jordan during which they met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and discussed the Gulf and the Middle East questions with Jordanian leaders.

The visit was part of France's efforts to help reach a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis and a link in a chain of visits by French officials and parliamentarians to a number of Arab countries to discuss peace prospects.

Jean Francois Deniau and Michel Beregovoy told journalists here that peace was possible if everything was done to avoid war.

Among those they met in Amman was Minister of Information and Acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine who welcomed France's efforts based on President Mitterrand's peace initiative.

Dr. Khaled Obeidat, director of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry, the French charge d'affaires in Amman and other officials were at the airport to bid farewell to the French parliamentary team.

Iraqi archaeologists protest foreign aggression

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi archaeologists called on their Jordanian counterparts to send messages of protest to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the U.N. organisations concerned, seeking their intervention to stop aggression against Iraq.

In an appeal sent to Head of the Archaeology Department at Joran University Saleh Hamarneh, the Iraqi archaeologists said Iraqi cultural property might face total destruction as a result of the

American plans aimed at besieging Iraq, destroying it and draining its economic resources.

They noted that Iraq is rich in cultural and historical places, dating back to some 14 centuries ago.

Six Germans allowed to leave Iraq for humanitarian reasons

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Six Germans arrived from Baghdad last Saturday evening saying that Westerners still in Iraq were not being mistreated but were looking forward to leaving.

The six German men, none of whom was being held at "strategic locations," were reportedly released for humanitarian reasons. While some are ill, others are "urgently needed" at home for family reasons, according to embassy officials here.

"At no time were we mistreated, we were allowed to move about freely and we had enough to eat... that's all I can say," Manfred Yung, a former employee of the Iraqi North Oil Company, told reporters upon arrival.

The oldest of the six, Hans Gerd Sandtschiede, a 77-year-

old businessman with a heart problem who has lost his entire business in Iraq because of the Gulf crisis, refused to speak to the press. "We have 32 more people in Iraq and there is no reason we should endanger them by speaking to reporters," he said.

"No one feels very good about the fact that they have not been allowed to travel outside of Iraq for the last three months," said another North Oil Company employee. He said that the company had continued to pay its foreign employees wages even after the crisis began.

"It was bad for those who were tourists because they had monetary problems, but those who were working there continued to be paid," he told the Jordan Times.

Upon arrival the six Germans said that their embassy in Baghdad had done everything

in its power to make life as comfortable as possible for them. While the majority said that they would not comment on what Bonn could do to speed up exit permits for those still in Iraq who wanted to leave, one said that he felt they could do more.

"The morale is low; three months is enough, it's nerve wrecking. They should send more delegations or whatever," he told reporters.

A German-Arab friendship group said the exit visas for the six and two more who are expected to arrive in Amman Sunday had been facilitated by Dieter Schinzel, a social democratic German member of the European Parliament who visited Baghdad last week.

About 400 Germans are reportedly still held in Iraq and Kuwait, and 74 of them have reportedly been taken to "unknown destinations."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Somalia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre in which he congratulated him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on Somalia's national day anniversary. King Hussein wished Barre good health and happiness and the Somali people further progress and prosperity.

Lawzi receives French official

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Saturday received in his office the French army former chief of staff and member of the European Parliamentary Union (EPU) General Jean Lacaze. During the meeting Lawzi and Lacaze reviewed the situation in the region, the Jordanian-French relations and the relations between the Jordanian Parliament and the EPU.

Minister forms educational committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan Saturday decided to form an educational committee whose task will be to spread awareness among students on rationing consumption. The committee comprises Mohammad Sulaiman Zaitoun, Mohammad Ibrahim Obeidat, Talal Mohammad Al Atiyat, Hassan Ala'uddin, Youssef Ahmad Youssef and Tayseer Thibani. The committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting Monday to discuss its programmes.

Zaben visits Irbid governorate

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Mohammad Al Zaben Saturday met with Irbid Governor Jawdat Al Shoul during a visit to the governorate and discussed with him the health situation in the governorate. Zaben also met with students of Irbid Nursing College. He also visited Yajouz Nursing College in Zarqa where he inspected its various sections.

Jordan, Egypt discuss bilateral relations

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Essam Abdul Meguid received Saturday the Jordanian Ambassador to Cairo Nabih Al Nimr and reviewed with him bilateral relations particularly in economic and cultural fields. Abdul Meguid and Nimr also discussed the developments in the region.

JCO, IDB heads hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Jamal Bdour discussed Saturday with Director General of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) Taher Kanaan, the prospects of the bank's development and investment fund financing the JCO's cooperative projects.

Islamists organise rally in Madaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic movement in Madaba district organised Friday evening a public rally in the city of Madaba to highlight the importance of Jihad (the Islamic holy war) and martyrdom in countering the foreign presence in the Arab World.

Deputy Abdul Hafiz Allawi delivered a speech in which he reviewed the challenges and the grave dangers facing the Arab Nation and the plots threatening Islam and the Muslims.

Allawi denounced the massacre committed by Israeli forces in Al Haram Al Sharif on Oct. 8 against unarmed civilians.

Addressing the rally was also Deputy Ahmad Qutaish Al Azaideh, who warned of Israel's "continued colonialist plans" and said that Jordan is one of the countries against which Israel is conspiring.

Also speaking at the rally were Deputy Ahmad Kafawin and Dr. Ahmad Nofal of the University of Jordan's Sharia Faculty.

Crown Prince

(Continued from page 1)

"We do not call for simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestine and Iraqi forces from Kuwait," he said. "We call for a simultaneous acceptance of the principle for that withdrawal."

He said no Israeli official had ever stated that Israel was ready to withdraw from one inch of occupied Palestinian land, and this prompts the Arabs to lose faith in international legitimacy.

Prince Hassan said Jordan had been striving to attain a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis even before foreign forces arrived in the region, but it was accused that it was delaying proper action against Iraq. "Jordan in fact has been trying to contain the problem and has accepted all the Security Council resolutions which condemn occupation, call for withdrawal of forces and direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait," the Crown Prince noted.

He said there was no difference between international legitimacy and Arab efforts to end the Gulf crisis. He warned that should a war break out "there will be devastation for the whole Arab region."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarw displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition of photos from the Goethe-Forest (between Tafleh and Shobak) by Sigrid Neuber at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Salwa Amareen and Haifa Amareen at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science and Technology Parks" at the British Council.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Après la guerre" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:15 p.m.

Handwritten signature: J. Al-Najjar

Jordan Times

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Eyes on U.N. again

THE EYES of the world are once again focused on the U.N. Security Council to see how it is going to respond to Israel's defiance of its Resolution number 672 on the massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem on Oct. 8. Israel has refused to oblige Washington by extending a superficial acceptance of the council's decision to send a fact-finding mission to investigate the massacre. What the international community had called for was a genuine opportunity to investigate the massacre and not just a facade or a gimmick that appears to satisfy the council but does nothing with the heart of the matter.

The Arab side has always entertained fears that some kind of showmanship would be orchestrated with Israeli connivance to give lip service to Resolution 672 with a view to getting the occupier off the hook. Now, however, the U.N. secretary general can report to the Security Council that Israel's final word is negative and that the Jewish state would not cooperate with any U.N. fact-finding mission sent on the basis of Resolution 672. Having offered Israel some kind of face-saving formula but lost, Israel's allies in the council are once again boxed in and have no way to go except support a follow-up resolution demanding Israel's compliance with the will of the Security Council or risk receiving punishment from it in the form of sanctions.

A principal feature of the Arab League's decision which was adopted Thursday after a stormy session called on the Security Council to apply sanctions against Israel for its refusal to implement the council's many resolutions on the Palestinian issue, including 672. The Arab League's resolution was adopted unanimously, enjoying the support of the Arab countries that backed the U.N. resolutions imposing sanctions on Iraq in the wake of its military action in Kuwait. The Arab side is now entitled to have such Arab countries' continued support for the decision demanding the imposition of sanctions on Israel and to link their support to the sanction resolutions on Iraq to the willingness of the permanent members of the Security Council to enforce its resolutions on the Palestinian question, including 672, 242 and 338. Now it is up to Washington and London to show the international community, including the Arab World, the way to evenhandedness and single-standard approach to the binding resolutions of the international community. If they fail to dispel the deep-rooted suspicion that they are masters of the double-standards game, they would most certainly risk undermining their legal and moral right to demand the implementation of the string of Security Council resolutions on Iraq. The day of reckoning is thus fast approaching and the moment of truth is almost at hand.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BEFORE the arrival of Soviet Presidential envoy Primakov at the White House, President Bush announced that Washington is not interested in any compromise over the Gulf crisis, said Al Ra'i in its editorial Saturday. This move served as a clear attempt by Bush to abort Soviet attempts to defuse the crisis by peaceful means especially in the wake of reports that the Soviets were optimistic about a political settlement, the paper noted. But it seems that Washington is lending an ear to Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, who is advocating war on the Arabs and who urges the U.S. administration to keep its forces in the Gulf until Washington's aim of destroying Iraq's military power has been achieved, said the paper. It said that Kissinger wants the U.S. administration to serve as a shield for Israel, destroying any power in the Arab region trying to threaten Israel or trying to put an end to its expansionist designs. Western military strategists have repeatedly warned against any conflict in the Gulf which they believe would cost the Western forces dearly, but it seems that Washington is not interested in this view, said the paper. One indication of Israel's satisfaction with this assurance is the massacre of 30 Palestinians near Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem earlier this month, said the paper. It noted that the Americans do not want the Western forces alone to assume the task of providing protection for Israel but it is keen to involve Arab countries and their armies as well, so that any war on Iraq would seem to be involving the whole world.

The hostile reaction which British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd received in the occupied Arab territories should also have characterised his visits to the other Arab countries which have bitter memories of British colonial rule, says Jumma Hamad in his column in Al Ra'i Saturday. Britain's record is full of shameful actions committed against Third World nations for centuries, and wherever the British go they are followed by the curse of the oppressed nations of the world, the writer notes. The British left behind bitter disputes in all regions which they had ruled by force and were evicted in shame like Cyprus, Palestine, Nigeria, South Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Sudan and Egypt, notes the writer. He says that the Arabs had thought that the British were repentant for what they had done in the past, because its statement had often expressed regret over the past shameful acts of the empire. But, he adds, statements like those issued by Hurd and Margaret Thatcher reflect otherwise, and clearly indicate that this old empire is seriously trying to make a comeback into the modern world.

Al Dustour daily tackled the situation in the occupied Arab territories in the wake of Israel's open refusal to allow a U.N. inquiry mission to arrive in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that, assured that no action can be taken against it, Israel has followed up its atrocities by denying the Muslims the right to pray at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and is continuing its atrocities against the Arab population in other forms. Israel realises that the Security Council which is under the influence of the United States can by no means take a decision of imposing an embargo on the Jewish State let alone forcing the Israelis to give up occupied territories, said the paper. Israel, said the paper, is assured of no sanctions thanks to the continued pressure exercised by the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress and Israel's influential friends in Washington.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

How high is tourism on the government's agenda?

DURING 1989, Jordan's receipts from tourism reached \$550 million, while the cost of outgoing tourism topped \$420 million. The total tourism business was close to \$1 billion in both directions.

With such magnitude, one expects tourism to be at the top of the government agenda, to find ways and means to maximise receipts and minimise outlays. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The government is hardly aware that tourism is worth the attention and the investment.

Apparently, tourism is not sufficiently appreciated by decision makers, and accordingly is not given a high position in the scale of priorities.

A tourism directorate (or authority) was never settled at the government organisation chart. It was at one time a ministry, at another a department associated with the Antiquities Department, then attached to the Ministry of

Culture and Youth. At one time it has been made to report to the minister of industry and trade, who was hardly able to spare the time to look into its problems, and finally it is now back to being a fully fledged ministry but with very little financial resources to discharge its responsibility.

Financial sources allocated in the budget to tourism are minimal and could not finance marketing and publicity campaigns abroad, or pay for the facilities and provide the badly needed services inside.

We do not claim that tourism is more important than industry, mining or agriculture. We simply say that tourism is an important productive sector, which can be properly classified as an export activity. Tens of millions of dinars were invested in hotels, aeroplanes, and other capital intensive facilities, and accordingly deserve more attention from the authorities.

Owing to regional and international circumstances, and the dragging on of a seemingly endless war in the Arabian Gulf, the civil strife in Lebanon, the intifada in the West Bank and unrest in many places in the Middle East, tourism to Jordan has taken a beating, from 1982 to 1988, which was felt badly by our deluxe hotels, whose occupancy rates dropped, and the national air carrier whose load seat factor plunged painfully. The lower utilisation of the tourist facilities in the country in that period hurt the economies of these units because the idle assets were costing a lot while producing nothing.

Major hotels in Amman and Aqaba posted heavy losses for several years. On the other hand, the Royal Jordanian, which had been making money every year since 1973, suffered a loss in 1983, and thereafter. Fortunately, tourism picked up in 1989. The fact was re-

flected by higher occupancy and yield and consequently more touristic establishments turned around to profitability. The question is whether we can keep the momentum.

The statistics of arrivals are not indicative of the real tourist activity in the country. Arrival figures include incoming foreign labourers, transit passengers and the thousands of Haj groups travelling to Saudi Arabia and back, all of which have nothing to do with tourism and what it entails in expenditure.

Incoming tourism was supposed to generate receipt in foreign exchange in the order of JD 335.7 million in 1989, of which less than 40 per cent, or JD 130 million, was the value added, or the contribution to the gross national product (GNP).

Outgoing tourism costs Jordan around JD 178.3 million in foreign exchange which can absorb a large portion of the

proceeds of all the national commodity exports.

It is worth mentioning here that, so far, no study has been made in Jordan to establish the value added of the tourism sector. Many think of the volume of foreign receipts as a contribution to the national income and conclude that the tourism sector is too large to need further support from the government.

A preliminary exercise conducted by myself, and based on a study of the financial statements of two five-star hotels in Amman and one in Aqaba, the Royal Jordanian, JETT company and a souvenir shop as a representative sample, revealed that the value added in these institutions in the form of wages to manpower, remunerations to management, profits to owners, interest to banks, rents to land lords and taxes to the government, was hardly above 35 per cent of the gross receipts.

Awaiting more, thorough and accurate study, we reckon that the contribution of tourism by way of value added to GNP in Jordan is to the tune of five per cent only, which, I claim, is a long way below the potential of the country, and means that something could and should be done about it before it is too late.

It is of course, understood that the budget is very tight, but we should also realise that if an effective and well equipped Ministry of Tourism can raise touristic receipts by 10 per cent and decrease 10 per cent of disbursement, the net savings to the country would be in the order of JD 50 million, which is worth the investment.

Tourism should creep to a higher ranking in the government agenda in spite of the current Gulf crisis, and perhaps because of the crisis and the resulting losses in foreign exchange from traditional sources.

Philippine TV wages a post-dictatorship battle for freedom

By Jon Miller

MANILA — "There is only one cure for the evils which newly acquired freedom produces," wrote the English historian Macaulay in 1827, "and that is freedom." Cheche Lazaro agrees, with reservations. For 16 years she has taught Philippine journalism students — most of whom grew up under martial law — that freedom of the press is a cornerstone of democracy. Today, four years into a post-dictatorship media explosion, she admits that winning back that freedom was only half the battle.

Now the goals are more abstract, but they're nearly as elusive: ideals like quality, sobriety and responsibility. The pioneering television producer says today's Philippine journalists face a double challenge: to raise their own standards, and to raise the expectations of an audience accustomed to fluff.

"The simple analogy is this," she says, seated in the wood-paneled kitchen of her well-appointed Manila home. "If you never introduce a kid to vegetables, he'll never know what vegetables are. And when you put vegetables beside junk food, he'll never touch the vegetables, no matter what you do."

But the Filipino television diet is finally improving, to 00 small degree because of Lazaro's efforts. As the driving force behind a weekly investigative news-magazine called "The Probe Team," Lazaro has begun to stake out a place for serious journalism in what has been a predominately junk food world.

If critical recognition is any measure, Lazaro and her Probe Team colleagues are succeeding. The show, locked in a late-night time-slot and shunned by most big-money sponsors, has been sweeping the major local awards for public affairs programming. Last January, Lazaro was invited to the United States to accept a citation at the New York Festival for Television and Film.

At 44, Lazaro has little need to prove herself. She is head of the Broadcast Communications department at the country's most prestigious public university. She is the mother of two bright teenagers and the wife of a successful business executive, with a showcase home in one of Manila's most exclusive neighbourhoods. Why risk her family's savings on a project like "The Probe Team?"

"In 1986, after Marcos fled, there was this huge information gap. People wanted to know what was going on, what had really happened to the country," she recalls. "The press was opening up and looking for shows. We were all very idealistic. I thought, why not? It was an experiment, a stab in the dark."

Lazaro pitched the idea to a station that had been closed by Marcos, and got the go-ahead. It was her first venture into commercial TV, and she undertook it determined not to compromise her standards. Early topics ranged from child prostitution to passport forgery to deforestation.

After a year of hearing from station executives that the programme "wasn't commercial enough," she and three colleagues decided to go independent. That meant purchasing a large stock of expensive equipment — cameras, lights, microphones, editing machines and so on. It was a financial gamble, but Lazaro says the operation is beginning to pay for itself. There are two camera crews, a production team, a stable of reporters and a host of student interns. Each week the staff pieces the

show together in a converted house, then rushes the finished tape to the headquarters of one of the national networks. Friday evenings are predictably frantic; the tape is rarely ready to go more than half an hour before air-time.

To earn extra money, the company produces videos for a Manila marketing firm. Lazaro is also looking at adding a more "mainstream" entertainment show.

The "Probe Team" was modeled on the popular American programme 60 Minutes. It consists of three segments, each between 15 and 20 minutes long. Generally, one segment is "heavy," one is "medium" and one is "light." The show is edited to be snappy and engaging, with a good deal of attention paid to visual effect. It is broadcast in English, which is universally spoken by the upper and middle classes, but not readily understood by the less-educated poor.

The byword, Lazaro says, is balance. "We may have a view, but we try as much as possible to balance it, so that each faction is given a chance to speak in its own time, at its own speed, in its own words. We don't tell the audience who is right, or what to believe."

Innocent as it sounds, that formula can make waves. After the coup attempt that nearly toppled the government of President Corason Aquino last December, Lazaro and a "Probe Team" colleague, Maria Ressa, arranged an interview with Gregorio Honasan, the fugitive leader of the rebellious right-wing Reform the Armed Forces Movement. Ressa, blindfolded and driven to a Manila safehouse, conducted the interview, which was broadcast outside the Philippines by the U.S.-based Cable News Network.

Aquino had meanwhile appealed to Filipino journalists to refrain from airing the views of the coup plotters, and especially Honasan. Still, Lazaro and Ressa planned to play about three minutes of the interview — along with segments of interviews with communist guerrillas and government officials — on a "Probe Team" show titled "Ideologies." The goal was to clarify in general terms the positions of the Left, the Right and the Center.

The show was well-publicized, and presumably a larger-than-usual audience tuned in. But at the appointed time a re-run of an old "Probe Team" feature came on instead. There was an uproar.

Newspaper columnists cried out about censorship. Rumours flew that the President's office had intervened, in flagrant violation of the principles of a free press.

Lazaro says barring the show was strictly the decision of nervous network officials, who hadn't a chance to see the tape prior to air-time (because, she admits, it wasn't finished until minutes before it was scheduled to go on). The programme was in fact broadcast, uncensored, the next week, but the incident spurred a wide debate about freedom of the press — and journalistic responsibility in a fragile democracy.

"Media can do several things," says Lazaro, looking for lessons in the controversy. "It can underscore the importance of a person by showing him, but it can also exaggerate his importance by not showing him. You build a myth around that person by withholding information, by not exposing him for what he is."

"I don't think we are a stupid nation," she asserts. "But I think one big fault of Philippine media is that we tend to underestimate the intelligence, the ability of our audience to discern things for themselves." — World News Link.

Futurist Toffler predicts major power shift in 1990s

By Jenny Deam Reuter

NEW YORK — Alvin Toffler, social thinker and futurist gave the world a new term for the unsettling effects of social and technological change when he wrote "Future Shock."

Two decades on, he has gone a step further with "Powershift." The book says the world will see a major change in the balance of power and faces "extreme turbulence" in the 1990s.

Power will be defined as the ability of one person to transmit knowledge to another quickly, he said, whether it be by a fax transfer or the sweep of a bank card through a cash machine at the supermarket.

"In the past the world was divided by East and West, North and South. In the future it will be divided into fast and slow," 62-year-old Toffler told Reuters.

Disruptions will come as traditional institutions that have long controlled money and information have to give way to new diffused sources of wealth and influence, he says.

"The power chickens are coming home to roost," he adds.

"While most of the world was focused in the 1980s on political and economic upheaval in Europe, Asia and Central America," Toffler says an equally significant but quieter revolution was taking place in bank teller lines, offices, and shopping centres.

And that, he said, was a revolution of information.

Toffler, who lives in Connecticut state with Heidi, his wife of 40 years, said they wrote most of his books together.

He was careful to attribute all opinions to "We." "We think together, we argue together," said Toffler, drawing diagrams in the air to illustrate his ideas. "I write, she tears it apart."

Toffler, a New York native who has written or edited at least 10 books, accepts the title of futurist, but shuns any talk of predicting the future — even though many of his forecasts in previous books have come true.

"Prediction is a word that is excluded from our vocabulary," he said. "Smart futurists don't make predictions. Predictions are for quacks."

Toffler said he and his wife at one time worked in factories where they learned at first hand about the system he has described as a "smoke-stack economy."

He said advanced economies would have to operate at the high speeds made possible by computers and telecommunications.

And as companies move in that direction there will be conflict between the old way of doing and the new. No longer will it be efficient for managers to wait days or weeks for production reports to learn what their workers are doing. Instead we are moving toward a "real-time economy" in which such information will be instantaneous, said Toffler.

Gloomy outlooks about the possible decline of U.S. influence do not impress Toffler.

He says he believes the United States is still a leader in the world market and will continue as one because of the three main power sources — military, economic and knowledge — in which the country still holds an edge.

Assad pledges full support

(Continued from page 1)

any militia which refused to disband according to the Arab-brokered Taif peace plan aimed at ending Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

Lebanese Defence Minister Albert Mansour Saturday denied that Aoun's soldiers were executed after surrendering, and said 200 more Syrian soldiers were killed than earlier reported.

In the first official version on the fighting between Syrian troops and followers of Aoun, Mansour said there was a "double-massacre" after Aoun ordered his troops to continue fighting even though he had broadcast his surrender.

Aoun's former enclave was attacked Saturday by Syrian and Lebanese forces, crushing the general's 11-month mutiny.

"Aoun's troops were not executed," Mansour said. "What happened is that after Aoun's surrender statement was broadcast, we ordered the advancing troops to stop shooting, but fighting continued, especially in Dahr Al Wahsh and Souq Al Gharb."

Dahr Al Wahsh and Souq Al Gharb are on the eastern and southern flanks of the 207-square-kilometre area formerly controlled by Aoun's forces in the Christian heartland.

"We knew later that Aoun had given orders to his forces to continue fighting for three hours, hoping for foreign pressures in his favour," Mansour said in remarks were published by the leftist newspaper Al Safir.

"The Syrian forces, unaware of Aoun's keep-fighting orders, were taken by surprise and lost 200 dead," Mansour said.

"When the rest of the force reached Aoun's positions, the second massacre took place," he said. "The bodies at the government hospital in Baabda are Aoun's troops who were killed in the confrontation."

Baabda is a Christian suburb east of Beirut. It houses the shell-shattered presidential palace, which served as Aoun's headquarters before he fled last Saturday to the French embassy in nearby Hazmeh, where he has been holed up in refuge.

Mansour's revelation that 200 Syrian soldiers were killed on the eastern flank of Aoun's former enclave raises the overall toll from the eight-hour air-and-ground assault to end the mutiny last Saturday to 550 dead, including 300 Syrian soldiers, and 1,200 wounded.

France Thursday asked United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to order an investigation into the alleged "execution" of Aoun's troops after surrendering to the attacking forces.

Family and friends of Aoun flew to asylum in Franco Saturday.

A French military plane landed in strict secrecy at an undisclosed location in Paris overnight carrying 12 women and children, including Aoun's wife and three daughters, officials said.

A second French plane flown to Beirut to evacuate Aoun's officers, holed up in the embassy since last weekend, returned empty-handed when the men were turned away by soldiers at Beirut airport.

They returned to France's diplomatic premises to join Aoun and his top aides, Issam Abu Jamra and Edghe Maalouf. The three are accused of war crimes and misappropriating public funds.

French commentators said both Aoun's family and Ambassador Rene Ala were humiliated at the airport when troops ringed the embassy convoy and delayed take-off for five hours while they searched luggage and personal effects.

"They will remember for a long time their departure from Beirut," said France Inter Radio. "The Syrian army put them through hours of anguish with searches and the confiscation of money."

Soldiers seized \$22,000 from Mrs. Aoun, who was let through a body search, and \$150,000 from Mrs. Issam Abu Jamra.

The central bank has ordered local banks to freeze the accounts of Aoun, Maalouf and Abu Jamra.

U.N. not to send probe mission

(Continued from page 1)

council members when he said, "There was deep regret that the Israeli government had taken the attitude that it was not ready to receive the mission."

"There was a feeling that the council should not take 'no' for an answer," Hannay said.

"It is quite clear that if the position of the Israeli government, of not being willing to receive the mission, results in the mission not going there, this will

have some influence on the report.

During Friday's council consultations several working papers were circulated as the basis for a possible resolution or statement deploring Israel's refusal and demanding that it receive the U.N. mission.

Discussion of these was put off until Monday, to enable some delegations to receive instructions from their governments.

Gazans continue violent protests

(Continued from page 1)

West Bank and villagers said he was suspected of collaborating with Israel.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, about 100 Israeli women called for international intervention to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The protest followed a decision by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar not to send envoys to the region to investigate the massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem last week.

Dressed in black and holding placards against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the women held a silent vigil across from the Russian Compound police prison in the centre of town.

Police had earlier barred the women from holding their vigil in Arab Jerusalem saying it could create "incitement." One woman was arrested when they began shouting slogans.

"We have to demand pressure from outside because we've seen a drastic swing to the right inside Israel and our effect is becoming less and less," said Judy Green, an architect who moved to Israel 10 years ago from the U.S.

"Most of us here believe that this occupation is destroying Israel and is destroying the morality of Israelis," she added.

"What we are asking for is some kind of godsend from outside to shake this country back into its senses," said Ruth Cohen as she held a poster reading: "Down with the occupation."

Thatcher continues to talk tough

(Continued from page 1)

"Primakov said he was not in any way suggesting that Saddam Hussein should gain from his invasion but that it might be better to avoid a war without making any concessions but by some kind of political manoeuvring," the spokesman said.

Thatcher was adamant Saddam should pull out of Kuwait unconditionally, saying Iraq had to get out "and that's that."

In Paris, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Saturday that U.N. sanctions against Iraq were beginning to work and eventually will hamper Iraqi forces in

Kuwait. Cheney also reiterated the U.S. position that no additional authorisation by the United Nations is required to take military action against Iraq if that becomes necessary.

"We are very hopeful we will be able to achieve our objectives peacefully," he said. "At the same time, we've made it clear we will look at other options."

"We also have made clear that given the request by the government of Kuwait under Article 51 of the U.N. Charter about self-defence that we do not need any additional authority."

America's richest man: Gambler, intellectual

By Joe Talyor
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Virginia — Metromedia Co. founder John W. Kluge, the wealthiest man in America, credits much of his success to plain old gambling and good luck.

"The greatest factor in my life — and I know entrepreneurial people don't want to express it, they think it diminishes them — but luck plays a large part," Kluge told Forbes magazine in a rare, recent interview.

The 76-year-old Kluge (pronounced kloo-gee) is worth an estimated \$5.6 billion, making him the richest man in the United States, according to Forbes. Last year, he topped the magazine's list of the 400 wealthiest Americans with an estimated income of \$5.2 billion.

While many successful men are driven by money, Kluge is not, said his estranged wife, Patricia. "John was a pioneer — he wasn't particularly a man who wanted to be rich or enjoy a grand life," Mrs. Kluge, 41, told the Washingtonian magazine in an interview published in August.

"He was more an intellectual businessman than a money-making businessman," she said. "He was more challenged by the creation of new ideas and new markets against all odds... He took a small idea and turned it into something grand."

Friends and colleagues also describe the stocky, balding Kluge as friendly and down-to-earth.

"He's just a regular guy," said Alton H. Smith, who has known the Kluges since they moved to

Virginia in 1982. "He'll talk about anything you want to talk about."

Kluge, born in Germany, came to the United States in 1922 at age 8. The son of an engineer, his family settled in Detroit, and for a time he worked on a Ford assembly line.

During the depression, Kluge enrolled in Columbia University and he earned an economics degree in 1937. He worked in army intelligence during World War II.

At Columbia, Kluge told Forbes, he was a gambler, often playing cards well into the night to help earn money for school. "I came out of College with 7,000 dollars," he said.

Kluge got into broadcasting after the war, buying his first radio station in 1946. Later he expanded into television, and his holdings, Metromedia Broadcasting, eventually grew into seven TV stations and 14 radio stations. The TV stations eventually became the Foundation of Fox Television.

Business wasn't always smooth. In the early 1980s, Metromedia was taking a beating on Wall Street.

Kluge convinced his properties were worth much more, decided to go private by buying out public shares. He had warned his wife of tight financial times ahead, but by her own account, she wasn't sympathetic.

"There was no buildup for this thing, I was stunned, as any wife would be," she said.

"And I said, 'Why don't you have a fortune? All those people less than you certainly don't have your brain and your vision,

but they have fortunes."

When he told her it had never been important for him to become rich, she shot back, "damn it, it is now" the Kluges had just adopted a son, John W. Kluge II.

"Go out and become a billionaire, and don't come back until you are," she said she told her husband. "And he did."

Kluge had met Patricia Rose, the Baghdad-born daughter of a British father and a Scottish-Iraqi mother, at a dinner party in 1976. She was divorced from Russell Gay, publisher of the British men's magazine *Knave*, which had run nude photographs of her.

She and Kluge were married in 1981, he for the third time.

"What attracted me was his brilliance," she said. "I was absolutely knocked out by his ability to achieve whatever he wanted to achieve."

In a broadcast interview four years ago, Kluge said it wasn't his success that helped him grow but the "obstacles you overcome."

"The reclusive Kluge declined to be interviewed by the Associated Press."

After the highly leveraged buy-out that gave him all of Metromedia, Kluge sold off the pieces for \$4.65 billion, according to Forbes. He personally netted more than \$1.6 billion.

Since then, Kluge has invested his profits into other interests, including cellular telephones and restaurants.

Kluge said he plays his business deals as close to the vest as he plays his cards.

"Whenever I have a plan, I keep it really very much to my-

self, because I make changes in my own mind," he said. "It's been a habit of mine to do that, not because I don't want to look like I don't make mistakes — I make mistakes all the time — but rather so that people around me don't feel that every five minutes I'm changing my mind."

"I think the ability to gauge risks is crucial. I never ordinarily take on things that I can't see some end to, where you pile risks on risks," he said.

One of Kluge's lesser-known business ventures is cattle breeding on his 10,000-acre Albemarle farm estate in the shadow of Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home near Charlottesville, Virginia.

Before the Kluges separated this spring, he balanced the week between Virginia and his New York office, but now spends more time in New York. He also owns 70,000 acres in Scotland.

Mrs. Kluge will keep the 45-room Albemarle house mansion the couple built on the Virginia estate plus a reported \$1.5 million weekly allowance. She serves on the governing board of nearby University of Virginia.

She and Kluge contributed \$200,000 to Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder's campaign for election last November, and both served as chairmen of Wilder's inauguration festivities in January.

Since the separation, which by all accounts was amicable, Mrs. Kluge has been romantically linked to the 59-year-old Democrat, the nation's first elected black governor. Wilder says that he is only friends with the Kluges.

Self-immolations over bureaucrats' jobs baffle India

By Ruth Pitchford
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Middle-class schoolchildren and students have been setting themselves ablaze in north India, rocking the government and baffling adults.

The teenagers have chosen an agonising form of suicide over what in many places might be considered a mundane issue — bureaucrats' jobs.

But in India, government jobs matter.

Prime Minister Viswanath Pratap Singh's plans to reserve half of them for low castes in the Hindu hierarchy will deprive many in extended upper-caste families of a traditional perk — a relative who enjoys influence, status and unusual job security.

"In Europe and America, government jobs are nothing," said an official. "Here all the best jobs are in the public sector."

What few can explain is why teenagers should hurt themselves to death rather than face a future outside bureaucracy. A score or more have tried self-immolation in the past three weeks — some of them successfully.

"It's bizarre," said psychiatrist Rakesh Chandra. "There is a religious tradition of self-immolation in India, among Buddhist monks and Hindu widows."

"But all that is now being vulgarised," said sociologist George Mathew, one of many adults who blame the suicides on

unscrupulous politicians whipping up adolescent hysteria.

There is a modern precedent for self-immolation as a protest, set in the mid-1960s in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. But there Tamils used it against the very politicians whose children are now dousing themselves with kerosene.

Several Tamils committed self-immolation in protest against attempts to give northern Hindi national precedence over the Tamil language. It worked. New Delhi backed down.

Bemused adults in the capital hazard a guess that this is where the northern students got the idea for protest which their leaders have urged them to stop.

Self-immolation once had spiritual sanction among some Hindus. Death by fire was considered purifying. The Sati tradition of a widow burning on her husband's funeral pyre has not been wholly eradicated, 161 years after it was outlawed.

Some Hindu groups thought suicide took the dead to spiritual bliss and those who drove them to despair to damnation.

However, modern Hindus consider suicide a sin.

They believe many of the recent self-immolations are inspired by dares exchanged among an age group which in any country is prone to fantasies of martyrdom.

All agree that such passion over government jobs has to be seen in the Indian context. There are 850 million people in India and all but a tiny elite, both



Rajeev Goswami burns on a Delhi street

upper-caste and upper-class, struggle first to survive and then for status.

Chandra said he had checked the backgrounds of the students who have tried self-immolation.

"They're not from rich families, they're often from the lower middle classes," he said.

Affluence is relative. Parents clinging to middle-class status struggle to wield influence to get places for their children at private schools. Defenders of Singh's plan say they often pay a lot extra in bribes for examination success.

The prize is state employment, preferably a job which offers some opportunity to help the extended family.

An act that might border on nepotism in the west may be regarded in Hindu culture as a social duty.

At the very least, a state job guarantees a salary and a pension in a country which cannot afford a full welfare net.

Chandra believes some who have blamed their suicide attempts on politics might have

tried anyway. The numbers are not large for a huge country with few psychiatric facilities and a lot of social pressure on students to land a respectable job," he said.

"These are the loners," he said. "Then you have somebody who wants to be as macho as the rest of the gang and isn't, who ends up getting pressured. The last group does it on the spur of the moment. Everyone's being whipped up and something coalesces — God knows what."

Opium was used to persuade reluctant widows to the Sati pyre and drugs could well be helping today's students overcome instinctive revulsion against self-immolation.

"I don't have any evidence, but it's probable," said Mathew.

Chandra agreed. "Drugs are a very frightening problem here," he said. "It's rampant. Drugs are quite freely available."

In India attempting suicide is a crime, but no one expects the government to drag a flame-scarred student before a court to press for a one-year jail term.



Children should not be used to fight in conflicts they were not responsible for and can hardly comprehend.

By Claude Regis
Reuters

Geneva exhibition highlights plight of world's child-soldiers

GENEVA — "When I grow up, I want to be a child," says Lazaro, a 12-year-old Mozambican boy. "Play? There is no time to play. I am fighting a war," echoes 13-year-old Fidel, a full-time combatant in one of Colombia's leftist guerrilla movements.

Both boys have killed and will kill again. They have seen relatives and friends die in fighting and expect the same fate.

They are among an estimated 200,000 child-soldiers around the world dragged into active warfare and deprived of family, education and play.

The United Nations has made repeated legal attempts to shield children from the horrors of war.

The latest is a convention on the rights of the child adopted by the U.N. in November last year which says, "no child below the age of 15 shall be recruited into the armed forces."

But as long as political instability and poverty prevail in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, that call is likely to be ignored.

Children from more affluent countries are not immune. Tutu, an 11-year-old boy from a Los Angeles ghetto, goes out at night armed to the teeth to kill mem-

bers of a rival black gang. "It's like playing video games, but it's the real thing and far more exciting," he says.

Along with Robert, an 11-year-old stone-throwing boy in Northern Ireland and Hak, a 12-year-old Cambodian guerrilla, these boys are the unwitting stars of a remarkable French documentary film on children at war.

"I am 12 and I make war," by 30-year-old Gilles de Maistre, has won several awards and is shown daily to fascinated schoolchildren at the Red Cross Museum in Geneva.

It is the centerpiece of an exhibition called "Children in War" designed to coincide with last month's gathering of world leaders in New York for a summit on children.

The exhibition, which lasts until next April, has more than 100 photographs of frightened, hungry children caught up in hostilities since the Russian revolution

and World War I.

They are a small selection of 10,000 photographs from 60 countries the International Committee of the Red Cross has collected since it was set up 128 years ago to alleviate war suffering.

Museum director Laurent Marti says he has deliberately avoided displaying pictures of butchered or maimed children.

"I felt we should not repulse spectators. There is much more emotion in the way a child looks at you than in a dismembered body," he told Reuters.

There are skeletal children behind concentration camp barbed wire, starving children in Biafra during the Nigerian civil war and children fleeing napalm attacks in Vietnam.

Alongside are excerpts from legal texts adopted by the international community since 1924 in efforts to protect children from the cruelties of war.

"They show that the plight of children caught up in hostilities has been a constant preoccupation of this century even though it remains dramatic today," says Marti.

Since the 1924 declaration on the rights of children, there has been no shortage of lofty ideas. Translating them into action has been another matter.

Child-soldiers often turn from victims to executioners. Robert, whose cousin was killed by British troops, says he will fight British rule with guns instead of stones when he grows up.

Lazaro saw his mother shot dead and his father led away by guerrillas, never to reappear, before he was incorporated to fight. "I killed three men, I didn't like it very much but I was ordered to do it," he tells the reporter.

Fidel's commander asks the film crew why small boys should not be involved in fighting. "This is a popular war, everyone fights."

In all the children's testimonies there seems to be a yearning for the childhood and the warmth they never had.

Fidel cuddles up to his commander after the latest of his 34 battles against the Colombian army.

Lazaro adds that he sometimes cries. "I don't know why."

Development vs. the environment

By Dennis Passa
The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Environmentalist Martin Holdgate sees the need for patches of gray in the often black-and-white debate between conservationists and developers.

Hodgate, as director-general of the World Conservation Union, often acts as a sounding board for the wide-ranging views expressed by environmental groups over man's delicate balancing act with nature.

"You could say we are a bit gray in the interest of getting things done, but often it's the best way," Holdgate said Oct. 3.

"As long as the gray doesn't become too muddy," The World Conservation Union represents more than 400 government and non-government international agencies. Holdgate is in Australia to prepare for the union's 18th general assembly, to be held in Perth from Nov. 28-Dec. 5.

The assembly, which meets every three years, represents public and private conservation groups from 120 countries, including the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, formerly the World Wildlife Fund, and the Sierra Club.

The World Conservation Union was formed in 1948 in the footsteps of an international conference sponsored by the French government, the Swiss League for the Protection of Nature and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Holdgate believes both conservation and development must be accommodated.

"Economic development is essential to end the pollution of poverty, to give people the confidence to control their birth rates, and to bring about a more stable relationship between nature and people," he said recently.

But, he added, "conservation is equally essential because it preserves the environment's resources."

Holdgate said the group's new draft strategy for world conservation will be on the agenda for the Perth meetings. It identifies several problems that must be overcome if "sustainable development" is to proceed.

Those include the uneven distribution of influence and power

and what he called the "lack of ethical commitment" to preserving natural resources.

"It's right that developed nations will have to help out the developing ones," Holdgate said. "Right now the generally accepted amount by some countries seems to be 0.7 per cent of their GNP (gross national product). There are some that say that should rise to as high as 5 per cent."

Other major items on the agenda will be global warming, conservation of the world's wetlands and tropical forests, and a conservation plan for Antarctica. Holdgate, 59, first travelled to Antarctica nearly 30 years ago, spending two field seasons there to establish a biological research programme.

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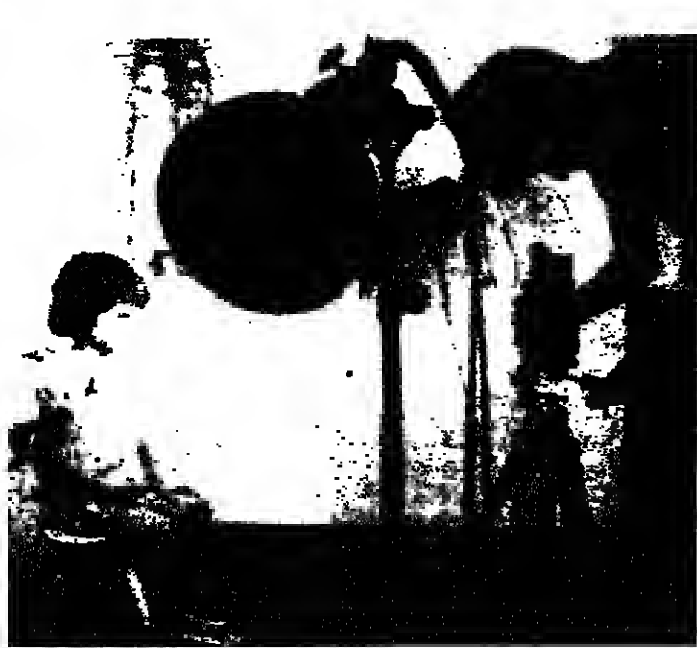
JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Violation des droits de l'Homme dans le monde

Entre ce que les gouvernements disent et ce qu'ils font

Amnesty International organisait la semaine dernière à Amman un cycle de conférences, d'exposition et de débats destinés à faire connaître son action: une première en Jordanie. L'Organisation internationale recense encore, dans son rapport pour 1990, plus de 1.500 prisonniers d'opinion détenus dans plus de 70 pays. Huit pays sont particulièrement montrés du doigt: la Chine, Cuba, l'Irak, le Malawi, le Soudan, la Syrie, la Turquie et le Vietnam. Tout récemment, après le massacre de la mosquée d'Al-Aqsa, elle a adressé un telex au Premier ministre Yitzhak Sha-

mir répétant ses craintes de voir les consignes officielles données aux forces de sécurité «permettre des morts injustifiables». Elle a demandé qu'une enquête judiciaire publique soit immédiatement ouverte sur ces événements. De leur côté, des scientifiques du monde arabe viennent de rédiger un projet de convention pour la prévention de la torture et des traitements inhumains et dégradants dans leurs pays. La défense des droits de l'Homme agit, mais sa tâche n'est pas finie.



Lorsque les droits de l'Homme sont bafoués, les enfants sont rarement épargnés.

J'avais très peur... Des cris déchirants me parvenaient de toutes parts, alors que les soldats commençaient à tirer. Une balle a atteint mon épaule gauche. Voyant mon tremblement, les soldats ont cru au début que j'étais encore vivant, mais un des leurs a fait signe que c'était un tueur. Pressé, ils nous ont à peine enterrés.

Ce témoignage, c'est celui d'Osama Musa, 26 ans, qui a survécu au massacre de la «rive de l'Est» en Somalie, commis par les forces armées somaliennes. Musa avait été pris dans la rafle qui eut lieu juste après des manifestations contre l'arrestation d'un certain nombre d'opposant au gouvernement. Quarante-sept personnes furent arrêtées suite à ces manifestations. Ceux qui furent amenés à la «rive de l'Est» furent exécutés, à cause notamment de leur origine tribale.

La Somalie n'est pas le pays le plus touché par la violation des droits de l'Homme et les traitements inhumains ou dégradants exercés par les gouvernements envers les peuples. Ces pratiques sont malheureusement ordinaires dans la vie quotidienne de quelques pays d'où les défenseurs et les protecteurs des droits de l'Homme ont du mal à les éliminer.

Le monde arabe n'est pas exclu. Il fait même partie, selon Amnesty International, des principaux coupables de violation des droits de l'Homme. Les

gouvernements, eux, répondent que les inquiétudes de l'Organisation «sont sans fondement».

En Egypte, par exemple, on compte plus de 8.000 prisonniers politiques, dont beaucoup sont détenus pour de simples délits d'opinion selon le rapport d'Amnesty. Des informations répétées font état de torture et de mauvais traitements infligés aux prisonniers politiques, notamment aux partisans de groupes islamistes opposés au gouvernement.

Au Maroc, un grand nombre de prisonniers actuellement incarcérés purgent des peines infligées à l'issue de procès inéquitables au regard des normes internationales. Amnesty continue à recevoir des informations faisant état de tortures et de mauvais traitements dans ce pays, notamment pendant la garde à vue. Seize personnes sont mortes en détention dans des circonstances peu claires. Un gréviste de la fin qui protestait contre ces conditions carcérales cruelles, inhumaines et dégradantes, est mort.

En Irak, des milliers de prisonniers politiques et d'opinion sont maintenus en détention sans inculpation ni jugement, ou à l'issue de procès qui n'auraient pas respecté les normes internationales en matière d'équité. La torture continue d'être infligée à des prisonniers politiques. Des disparitions ont été signalées. En outre, le gouvernement n'a pas fourni d'explications sur le sort de milliers de personnes disparues dans les années précédentes.

Dans ce sombre tableau, l'Algérie apparaît comme un Etat arabe respectant aujourd'hui les droits de l'Homme pour l'essentiel. Les quelques prisonniers détenus arbitrairement, selon Amnesty International, étaient en attente d'être rejoints, leurs

condamnations prononcées en 1987 à l'issue de procès inéquitables ayant été cassées. Des centaines de manifestants ont été arrêtés au cours de l'année et un grand nombre d'entre eux auraient été maltraités; mais la plupart ont été libérés au bout de quelques jours. En fait, l'Algérie a ratifié les traités internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'Homme et a adopté de nouvelles normes constitutionnelles garantissant les droits fondamentaux.

Jordanie

Bien que la Jordanie n'ait pas encore aboli la loi martiale, elle a connu un changement radical au cours de l'année passée en ce qui concerne le respect des droits de l'Homme. En décembre 1989, suite aux élections législatives de novembre, le nouveau gouvernement, dirigé par Mudar Badran, a annoncé son intention de lever la loi martiale dans un délai de six mois et d'en geler l'application d'ici-là. Dès avant la fin de l'année, il remettait en liberté plusieurs prisonniers politiques. Tout récemment un décret de grâce royale a été pris en faveur d'un membre du parti populaire révolutionnaire jordanien et reconnu coupable de complot et de coup d'Etat contre le Roi. Breik al-Haddad, âgé de plus de 50 ans, a retrouvé la liberté après avoir passé treize ans en prison. Il avait été condamné à mort.

Amnesty International a appelé le gouvernement jordanien à garantir le respect de l'ensemble des règles minima des Nations-Unies pour le traitement des détenus. Elle a également demandé aux autorités d'enquêter sur toutes les accusations de mauvais traitements infligés à des prisonniers, de traduire les responsables en justice et d'accor-

Royaume-Uni

L'enquête officielle sur les plaintes relatives au comportement de la police après les troubles survenus en 1985 à Londres est terminée mais ses conclusions n'ont pas été rendues publiques. Quatre détenus reconnus coupables de meurtre en 1975 à la suite d'attentats à l'explosif commis en Angleterre ont vu leur condamnation annulée quand il a été prouvé que la police avait menti au tribunal à propos de leurs aveux présumés.

Six autres personnes condamnées elles aussi en 1975 à la prison à perpétuité pour meurtre, sur la base de preuves controversées, sont restées incarcérées. Les investigations sur les homicides commis par les forces de sécurité ont continué à être entravées par des retards et des contraintes de procédures, ainsi que par le refus du gouvernement de rendre publics les résultats des enquêtes de police.

Le gouvernement a continué à refuser l'ouverture d'une enquête judiciaire sur les homicides controversés, ainsi que le réexamen des procédures qui régissent les recherches et enquêtes en Irlande du nord. Il a également refusé d'envisager un examen judiciaire de tous les éléments de preuve disponibles concernant les circonstances dans lesquelles trois membres de l'armée républicaine irlandaise ont été tués à Gibraltar, en 1988, par des soldats britanniques.

1989 a apporté des preuves de collusion entre membres des forces de sécurité d'Irlande du nord et groupes loyalistes armés. Par ailleurs, des demandeurs d'asile ont été expulsés sans que leur soit accordée la possibilité de soumettre leur affaire. Un tribunal a déclaré que les demandeurs d'asile renvoyés au Sri-Lanka contre leur gré en 1988 devaient être autorisés à revenir au Royaume-Uni.

Extrait du rapport 1990 d'Amnesty International

der une compensation aux victimes.

En janvier, les autorités ont répondu à l'appel lancé en 1988 par Amnesty International en vue d'une ratification par la Jordanie du protocole international relatif aux droits civils et politiques ainsi que de la convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants. Le gouvernement a déclaré qu'il étudiait la question.

Projet de convention

Dans le but de préserver les droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe et pour éviter que les gouvernements ne prennent des mesures inhumaines, un projet de convention arabe pour la prévention de la torture et des traitements inhumains et dégradants a été rédigé par un comité d'experts arabes de grande distinction et doit être soumis aux chefs d'Etat des pays arabes ainsi qu'à la Ligue Arabe.

Ce projet de convention, fruit de quatre colloques scientifiques, a été rédigé conjointement par plus de cent professeurs de droit, juges, officiers de police judiciaire, journalistes et diplomates

de tous les Etats arabes. Ils se sont réunis à plusieurs reprises entre janvier 1988 et juin 1989 au siège de l'Institut Supérieur International des Sciences Criminelles, en Italie.

Ce projet s'appuie sur les enseignements du Coran et les révélations divines concernant la dignité humaine. Il s'appuie aussi sur les conventions internationales et régionales pour la protection des droits de l'Homme, qui interdisent la torture et qui ont été adoptés par un certain nombre d'Etats arabes.

Le projet met l'accent sur le respect des droits de l'Homme et de sa dignité, en insistant sur le fait que le respect de ces droits n'est pas conciliable avec l'exercice de la torture et les traitements inhumains ou dégradants.

Dans toute société, la protection des droits de l'Homme doit être l'un des buts essentiels de la justice. Elle est aussi le fondement de la démocratie. Par la justice et la démocratie, le monde arabe peut aspirer à la paix, à la stabilité et au progrès. C'est vers cet idéal humaniste que ses efforts sont maintenant dirigés.

Saada Kilani

Etats-Unis

Seize détenus ont été exécutés en 1989. On comptait à la fin de l'année plus de 2.300 personnes sous le coup d'une condamnation à mort dans 34 Etats et en vertu du code de justice militaire fédéral. La cour suprême a décidé que l'on pouvait exécuter de jeunes délinquants n'ayant que 16 ans, ainsi que des personnes atteintes de troubles mentaux. Le Congrès n'avait pas encore examiné, à la fin de l'année, un projet de loi fédérale qui réintroduirait la peine de mort et l'appliquerait à des crimes qu'elle ne punait pas jusqu'ici.

Amnesty International a continué de s'informer sur plusieurs affaires pénales dans lesquelles les poursuites auraient des motivations politiques. Le procès d'un membre du mouvement pour l'indépendance de Porto-Rico a suscité des inquiétudes.

Malgré les garanties judiciaires contre la discrimination raciale, celle-ci continue, dans les faits, d'avoir une influence sur l'application de la peine de mort. Bien qu'il y ait eu en peu de temps un grand nombre de victimes d'homicide chez les noirs que chez les blancs, la peine de mort a été prononcée plus souvent quand la victime était blanche.

Entre 1976 (année où les tribunaux ont rétabli la peine de mort) et la fin de 1989, 120 accusés ont été exécutés. Ils avaient été condamnés pour le meurtre de 121 personnes, dont 101 étaient des blancs et 20 des noirs ou des membres d'autres minorités ethniques. Durant cette période, aucun criminel blanc n'a été exécuté pour le seul meurtre d'un noir.

Bien que le conseil des grâces et libérations conditionnelles de Louisiane ait recommandé que Dalton Prejean soit gracié, celui-ci a été exécuté par électrocution.

Le 18 mai 1990, Prejean, qui avait 17 ans au moment des faits, était le quatrième jeune délinquant exécuté en dix ans. Prejean était noir. Il avait été reconnu coupable et condamné à mort en 1978 pour le meurtre d'un policier blanc, par un jury composé uniquement de blancs après que le parquet eut exclu les quatre jurés noirs qui devaient en faire partie.

Extraits du rapport 1990 et de la lettre de juillet 1990 d'Amnesty International

EN BREF

Révolutions. Dans une interview parue mardi dans le New-York Times, le roi Hussein dévoile pour la première fois des détails de ses tractations diplomatiques depuis le 2 août pour tenter de résoudre la crise du Golfe. Si la guerre éclate, elle sera due en partie à l'incapacité, selon Sa Majesté, du président Bush et des Occidentaux à avoir perçu à temps les «signaux» envoyés par le président irakien. Après l'invasion du Koweït, le président Saddam Hussein lui a confié qu'il avait décidé vers la fin juillet «de s'emparer de tout le Koweït, et non pas seulement de la partie frontalière depuis longtemps contestée, car il s'attendait à ce que les Etats-Unis défendent le royaume par la force et il croyait qu'il serait ainsi en meilleure position, militairement et politiquement, s'il pouvait ensuite se retirer sur une ligne donnant à l'Irak les seuls territoires contestés. Le roi Hussein a également indiqué que le 2 août dernier, le président américain lui avait donné 48 heures pour obtenir de Saddam Hussein un engagement à retirer ses troupes. Selon lui, l'homme fort de Bagdad lui aurait promis d'entamer ce retrait si la Ligue Arabe s'abstenait de condamner l'invasion du Koweït. Mais la décision inverse de la Ligue au Caire a fait, selon lui, échouer les efforts d'Amman.

Jerusalem. Le Secrétaire Général des Nations-Unies, chargé par la résolution 672 du Conseil de Sécurité d'envoyer une mission d'enquête à Jérusalem pour enquêter sur la tuerie de l'esplanade des mosquées le 8 octobre dernier, a reporté sa décision à demain, après le refus ambigu d'Israël d'accueillir cette mission. Alors que le gouvernement israélien avait refusé dimanche à l'unanimité l'envoi de cette mission, l'ambassadeur israélien à l'ONU a déclaré, à l'issue d'un entretien avec M. de Cuellar, que son pays était «d'accord pour coopérer en essayant de trouver des voies et moyens permettant au Secrétaire Général d'écrire son rapport et de le présenter», sans préciser si ses propos impliquaient que son gouvernement allait accepter l'entrée en Israël d'une mission de l'ONU. Dans le même temps, le maire de Jérusalem, Teddy Kollek, s'est déclaré prêt à recevoir une telle mission, affirmant que «la décision de ne pas parler avec quelqu'un est un signe de faiblesse» et que «dans cette affaire nous n'avons pas agi avec intelligence». La France a qualifié le refus israélien de «grave faute» et les Etats-Unis se sont dits «déçus». De son côté, la Ligue arabe, réunie en conseil ministériel extraordinaire à Tunis à la demande de l'OIP, a adopté jeudi soir à l'unanimité une résolution condamnant Israël, demandant l'application de la résolution 672, appelant à la tenue d'une conférence internationale sur le problème arabo-israélien et appelant les pays arabes à poursuivre leur soutien financier à l'Intifada.

Liban. Le gouvernement français a saisi jeudi le Secrétaire Général de l'ONU pour lui demander une intervention immédiate au Liban après avoir reçu des nouvelles de l'hôpital gouvernemental de Baabda à Beyrouth, indiquant que 100 corps de soldats, tous membres des unités fidèles au général Aoun, tués à bout portant d'une balle dans la tête et certains portant des traces d'égorgement, avaient été transportés à la morgue de l'hôpital. Malgré le démenti du ministère de la Défense libanaise affirmant que seuls les corps d'une vingtaine de soldats, tous tués au cours des combats, se trouvaient dans cet hôpital, le gouvernement français a décidé de s'attacher à recueillir des informations sur ces exécutions sommaires présumées et de saisir, sans en attendre les résultats, M. De Cuellar du problème. Alors que les autorités syriennes semblent ne pas s'opposer à un exil du général Aoun en France, leurs alliés les plus proches au Liban réclament, eux, qu'il soit livré à la justice libanaise. Hier, un avion spécial a quitté Beyrouth pour Paris avec douze membres de la famille du général chrétien dont sa femme et ses enfants, mais Michel Aoun est toujours réfugié à l'ambassade de France. A Paris, l'ambassadeur du Liban a été évacuée à la demande de l'ambassadeur de la vingtaine de manifestants qui l'occupaient en signe de soutien au général Aoun. François Mitterrand a annoncé qu'il ne livrerait jamais ce dernier, tout en affirmant que la reddition du général mettrait la Syrie au pied du mur en lui offrant désormais «tout alibi» pour demeurer au Liban. A Beyrouth, l'armée libanaise a commencé à démanteler la ligne verte qui divisait la ville et ses alentours depuis quinze ans en une région chrétienne et une région musulmane.

Mission. Les parlementaires français de la commission des affaires étrangères ont réalisé cette semaine au Proche-Orient et dans les pays du Golfe une mission d'information sur la crise du Golfe et d'explication de la position française. A Amman, les députés Jean-François Deniau (droite) et Michel Bérégovoy (PS) ont été reçus par le prince Hassan, qui a souligné les efforts de la Jordanie pour parvenir à un règlement négocié de la crise et a évoqué les difficultés économiques auxquelles le pays est confronté depuis cette crise. Les deux députés ont également été reçus par le ministre jordanien par intérim des affaires étrangères, M. Ibrahim Ezzedine.

Rabais. L'Irak a proposé jeudi de vendre son pétrole à 21 dollars le baril et a annoncé qu'il accepterait que l'argent des ventes ne lui soit remis qu'après le règlement de la crise du Golfe. Par cette décision, a expliqué le ministre du pétrole irakien, «nous aurons contribué à réduire les prix du brut et à mettre à découvert le jeu des politiciens complices de certaines compagnies pétrolières qui s'adonnent à la spéculation». Les cours du brut ont à plusieurs reprises ces dernières semaines franchi brièvement la barre des 40 dollars pour retomber ensuite un peu en dessous.

Fermeté. Le secrétaire d'Etat américain James Baker a rejeté mardi l'idée d'un retrait partiel du Koweït par l'Irak. Il a déclaré notamment que satisfaire l'intérêt apparent du président Saddam pour un retrait de ses troupes du Koweït en échange de deux îles stratégiques ou d'autres concessions lui permettraient de bénéficier du «viol du Koweït».

Réticences. Les pays non-alignés sont réticents à accepter un nouveau projet américain de résolution autorisant notamment les Etats ou les particuliers à demander des compensations à l'Irak après l'annexion du Koweït. Ces pays considèrent qu'il serait inopportun d'adopter un nouveau texte contre l'Irak alors qu'Israël refuse une mission d'enquête du secrétaire général de l'ONU sur les incidents du 8 octobre à Jérusalem.

Jazz. Art Blakey, l'un des plus grands percussionnistes de l'histoire du jazz, fondateur du célèbre groupe des Jazz Messengers, pépinière de grands musiciens depuis près de 35 ans, est mort mardi à New-York. Art Blakey, qui était âgé de 71 ans, souffrait d'un cancer du psoas. Connu pour son style de batterie extrêmement dynamique et qui n'avait pas son pareil pour lancer un solo, il était un des jazzmen les plus âgés encore en activité. Parmi les morceaux immortalisés par son groupe figurent «Moanin'», «Blues March», «Caravan», «Whisper note», et bien d'autres.

Paix. Le président soviétique Mikhail Gorbatchev a reçu lundi le prix Nobel de la Paix 1990 «pour son rôle de premier plan dans le processus de paix qui caractérise aujourd'hui d'importants domaines de la communauté internationale». C'est la deuxième fois qu'un Soviétique reçoit ce prix. Le précédent était le physicien dissident Andreï Sakharov, en 1975.

Fin. L'actrice française Delphine Seyrig est décédée lundi à Paris à l'âge de 58 ans, des suites d'une longue maladie. Née à Beyrouth, elle fut rendue célèbre par son interprétation dans le film d'Alain Resnais «L'année dernière à Marienbad» (1960), pour lequel elle a obtenu le Lion d'Or au festival de Venise. Caractérisée par le charme indéfinissable de son visage, son sourire énigmatique et surtout sa voix irréaliste, avec «une ponctuation imprévisible qui va à l'encontre de toute règle» affirmait l'écrivain Marguerite Duras, elle avait tourné notamment avec Truffaut («Baisers volés»), Jacques Demy («Peau d'Âne») et Luis Buñuel («Le charme discret de la bourgeoisie»).

Palestine. Michel Khleifi, réalisateur palestinien réfugié en Belgique, a obtenu dimanche dernier, pour son film «Cantique de pierres», le grand prix du jury du premier festival international du film historique qui se tenait à Château-Thierry (nord de la France). «Cantique de pierres» mêle des séquences documentaires montrant des moments de l'Intifada à un dialogue dont la facture rappelle «Hiroshima mon amour» d'Alain Resnais, entre un homme et une femme palestiniens qui se sont beaucoup aimés et se retrouvent après une longue absence à l'étranger.

LA SEMAINE... de Suleiman Sweiss

Israël-USA: le défi

Depuis deux semaines, l'ONU et la volonté de la communauté internationale sont à l'épreuve. La raison? Le nouveau défi lancé par le gouvernement israélien à l'organisation internationale. Les Israéliens refusent catégoriquement de se plier à la résolution 672 adoptée tout récemment par le Conseil de Sécurité suite à la tuerie commise par les soldats de l'occupation israélienne le 8 octobre sur l'esplanade de la mosquée Al-Aqsa, à Al-Quods (nom arabe de Jérusalem-est).

Outre la condamnation du gouvernement israélien, cette résolution demande au secrétaire général de l'ONU d'envoyer une commission dans les territoires occupés pour enquêter sur le massacre. Mais les Israéliens ont déclaré quelques heures après son adoption qu'ils ne recevront pas la commission onusienne et qu'ils ne coopéreront pas avec elle. Rappelons que ce n'est pas la première fois qu'Israël méprise les résolutions de l'ONU et qu'elle rejette la coopération avec l'organisation. Rappelons aussi -ce n'est pas sans signification- que cette résolution est le fruit de cinq jours de tractations et de manœuvres de la délégation américaine pour empêcher le Conseil de Sécurité d'adopter une résolution qui confierait la commission d'enquête au Conseil lui-même et non au Secrétaire Général, car dans le premier cas, les recommandations de la commission (envoi des troupes onusiennes dans les territoires occupés par exemple pour protéger les Palestiniens contre d'éventuels massacres) seraient obligatoires. Une commission d'enquête envoyée par le Secrétaire Général sera (comme on a pu le voir en juin dernier) sans effet.

Paradoxalement (?) et malgré les efforts américains pour protéger Israël, Yitzhak Shamir a considéré le vote américain en faveur de la résolution 672 comme une «insulte» à l'égard d'Israël. Comme si les 81 votes que les Etats-Unis ont utilisés depuis quarante ans pour protéger la politique agressive d'Israël n'existaient pas!

Cette semaine sera décisive pour la communauté internationale: l'arrogance israélienne l'a mise au pied du mur. Israël a d'autres raisons de refuser de recevoir la commission d'enquête que son mépris pour la loi internationale. Pour elle, Al-Quods fait partie intégrante d'Israël et c'est aux autorités israéliennes d'enquêter sur les événements de l'esplanade d'Al-Aqsa. Pour la communauté internationale en revanche, qui n'a pas reconnu l'annexion d'Al-Quods par Israël le 22 juin 1967, l'enquête devra être menée par la commission de l'ONU. Du coup, il faut inéluctablement trancher: Al-Quods est-elle partie intégrante d'Israël ou est-elle sous occupation israélienne? Qui dicte la loi: Israël ou la communauté internationale?

Certes, 80% de la politique est faite de mots... mais des mots qui décident parfois des destins. Pour les Américains, ces mots servent à berner certains dirigeants arabes. On sait qu'ils n'ont pas seulement approuvé la condamnation pour éviter un nouveau recours au veto. Les mêmes dirigeants américains ont accordé aux Israéliens il y a un mois 400 millions de dollars pour absorber les nouveaux immigrants juifs d'Union Soviétique, accompagnés d'un octroi d'armes.

Il est probable que les jours qui suivront l'expiration du délai imparti à la mission de M. de Cuellar (le 24 octobre), connaîtront de nouvelles activités diplomatiques à New-York, et peut-être les Etats-Unis seront-ils obligés de braver leur veto pour protéger l'agresseur israélien (au lieu de l'agressé palestinien).

Ce serait l'occasion pour les vrais défenseurs de la loi internationale de jouer leur rôle. Pourquoi se presse-t-on d'envoyer des troupes pour appliquer une résolution du Conseil de Sécurité lorsqu'il s'agit de l'Irak et ne bouge-t-on pas quand Israël commet des crimes contre l'humanité? Des centaines de massacres commis par les autorités israéliennes contre les Palestiniens sont recensés dans les archives de l'ONU. Il est de plus en plus difficile aux dirigeants arabes de contrôler leurs peuples face à la mascarade sinistre qui se déroule sous leurs yeux depuis quarante ans.

On dit qu'il y a ici «deux poids et deux mesures», mais la vérité est pire: c'est toujours la loi de la jungle. On dit aussi que l'humanité a réalisé des progrès formidables au cours des vingt derniers siècles. Des progrès techniques et matériels sans doute, mais sur le plan moral il reste encore beaucoup à faire!

Israël et les territoires occupés

Quelque 25.000 Palestiniens, dont certains prisonniers d'opinion, ont été arrêtés dans le cadre de l'Intifada qui se poursuit dans les territoires occupés. Plus de 4.000 d'entre eux ont été placés en détention administrative sans inculpation ni jugement tandis que plusieurs milliers d'autres étaient jugés par des tribunaux militaires. A la fin de l'année, plus de 13.000 personnes étaient toujours incarcérées dans des prisons ou des centres de détention. Au moins 45 Israéliens, objets de conscience pour la plupart, ont été détenus comme prisonniers d'opinion.

Des milliers de Palestiniens ont été battus par les soldats israéliens ou torturés et soumis à des mauvais traitements dans des centres de détention. Au moins 8 personnes seraient mortes des suites de ces violences. Plus de 260 civils palestiniens non armés, dont des enfants, ont été tués par balle dans des circonstances semblant fréquemment indiquer que les militaires israéliens avaient fait usage d'une force excessive ou les avaient délibérément abattus.

D'autres personnes seraient mortes à la suite d'une utilisation délibérée abusive de gaz lacrymogènes. Les enquêtes officielles sur les exactions semblent avoir été insuffisantes. Une personne est toujours sous le coup d'une condamnation à mort.

Des milliers de Palestiniens ont comparu devant des tribunaux dans les territoires occupés. Certains auraient été condamnés à des peines allant jusqu'à cinq ans d'emprisonnement pour avoir jeté des pierres et jusqu'à neuf ans pour avoir lancé des cocktails Molotov.

Les avocats se sont mis en grève à plusieurs reprises pour protester contre certains aspects de la procédure légale. Ils déploreraient que les détenus ne soient pas informés rapidement des motifs de leur interpellation, que les audiences soient fréquemment reportées à une date éloignée, que celles portant sur la détention se déroulent sans la présence des avocats de la défense et que les plaintes pour mauvais traitements ne fassent pas l'objet d'enquêtes appropriées. Une cour militaire d'appel a été instituée en avril dans les territoires occupés.

Des milliers de Palestiniens ont été brutalisés par les soldats israéliens qui, pour les punir, ont frappé bon nombre d'entre eux à coups de pied, de bâton ou avec des crosses de fusil. Parmi les victimes figurent des personnes qui avaient essayé de dégager des barricades bloquant les rues, d'effacer des graffitis, ou qui étaient soupçonnées d'avoir jeté des pierres. Beaucoup d'entre elles ont été grièvement blessées -elles souffrent notamment de fractures- et au moins six personnes seraient décédées.

Fares Salha, tailleur, est mort à l'hôpital en avril, trois semaines après avoir été apparemment agressé par des militaires à son domicile dans le camp de réfugiés de Jabalya. Les soldats l'auraient frappé avec une houe et des crosses de fusil, et l'auraient précipité dans un escalier après qu'il eut tenté de les empêcher de battre ses fils.

Bien que la plupart des victimes aient été tuées au cours de manifestations ou d'émeutes, bon nombre d'entre elles ne semblent pas avoir participé à des actes de violence au moment où elles ont été abattues. Des Palestiniens non armés ont été tués par des militaires ou des membres des forces de sécurité israéliens en civil au cours d'opérations ayant officiellement pour objet de les arrêter. Les soldats israéliens ont dans certains cas retardé l'arrivée des secours médicaux d'urgence.

Milad Shadin, âgé de 12 ans, a été tué par des balles en mai à Bethlehem par un soldat qui a tiré depuis un poste d'observation; il semble que l'enfant qui se trouvait derrière un mur se soit avancé pour lancer une pierre.

Les autorités israéliennes ont affirmé, dans l'échange de correspondance et les discussions qu'elles ont eues avec les représentants de l'organisation, que la détention administrative était nécessaire pour des raisons de sécurité et que son utilisation était conforme aux principes du droit international. Elles ont déclaré par ailleurs que l'objection de conscience sélective était inacceptable.

Extraits du rapport 1990 d'Amnesty International

Sans blague!

Le nouvel ordre arabe

Le président Bush n'en croyait pas ses yeux. Sur le petit écran, un garçon d'une dizaine d'années fuyait en l'ouvrant dans la cour de l'Aqsa, échappant miraculeusement aux rafales que tiraient sur lui des soldats israéliens armés jusqu'aux dents. Le même finit par trouver un baril derrière lequel il se planqua et se mit, à son tour, à mitrailler les soldats avec des pierres. Bush se demandait si ce gosse intrépide (qui lui rappelait Gavroche de Victor Hugo) n'avait pas fini par figurer un nombre des centaines de victimes du massacre du saint lieu de Jérusalem.

«Au diable les intérêts des Etats-Unis! Au diable Israël! Au diable l'injustice!», rugit-il, les larmes aux yeux.

Une fois calmé, Bush prit le téléphone et appela le président Mitterrand. Les deux hommes tombèrent d'accord: un nouvel ordre mondial dans lequel régnerait la justice, l'égalité et la liberté devra être immédiatement instauré. Gorbatchev et la plupart des autres Grands de ce monde s'empresurent d'accueillir favorablement ce projet.

Même Maggie, pourtant très occupée à faire prendre à sa livre la tête du serpent européen, lui donna sa bénédiction. Seuls quelques princes du pétrole, quelques présidents de républiques bananières et Shamir montrèrent une opposition farouche au projet.

Bush décida de s'occuper en premier lieu du monde arabe, dans lequel un morcellement grotesque durant la période coloniale avait fini par créer des inégalités flagrantes entre les citoyens des différentes entités ainsi perpétrées. Malgré la création de la «Ligue Arabe» il y a déjà plus de quarante-cinq ans, la situation n'avait fait que détériorer. «Cette ligue, songea Bush avec un sourire amusé, a droit de cité dans le livre Guinness des records: c'est en effet l'organisme

ayant le plus grand nombre de gens, le plus longtemps possible».

Non content d'avoir entravé les efforts d'unification entre les pays arabes et d'avoir torpillé toute forme de collaboration économique entre eux, la ligue avait, en fait, facilité la création et l'expansion d'Israël; elle avait même légitimisé et béni, tout récemment, l'installation en Arabie de forces étrangères.

«Sacré Anthony!», s'exclama Bush avec admiration, en pensant au «père» de cette ligue, l'ancien Premier ministre britannique Eden.

Certains chiffres concernant les pays arabes venaient d'être communiqués à Bush par ses experts. Le revenu moyen par habitant allait par exemple de moins de 220 dollars par an en Somalie, à plus de 22.000 dollars dans certains pays pétroliers.

Ces inégalités, d'après la CIA, ne profitaient qu'à certains parasites, insatiables et corrompus. Quant à l'Arabie moyen, il continuait à vivre comme un chien errant (sic) dans les Etats pauvres, et comme un gros cochon engraisé (re-sic) dans les Etats riches.

Comme Bush n'avait pu être mandaté que par une douzaine de pays arabes, il dut inviter Sharif de Jordanie (mandaté par les autres) pour essayer d'élucider le nouvel ordre dans le monde arabe.

L'objet des rencontres visait à définir de nouvelles frontières géopolitiques du monde arabe et à trouver les solutions pratiques à deux problèmes qui préoccupaient beaucoup Bush et à un problème qui tracassait Sharif. Les problèmes qui préoccupaient Bush étaient celui de la sécurité de l'Etat hébreu et celui des niveaux de production et de prix du pétrole. Le problème qui tracassait Sharif était celui de l'endiguement de l'explosion démographique.

raphique.

Sharif présenta tout d'abord un projet (accompagné d'un programme informatique) préparé par des experts jordaniens, qui visait à déterminer les niveaux de production annuels de pétrole ainsi que ses prix. Bush promit de faire étudier ce projet par ses experts et par ceux de ses alliés. Puis il fut convenu de passer au sujet délicat de la réorganisation de la carte géopolitique du monde arabe.

Après une longue discussion, les deux hommes se mirent d'accord sur le fait qu'une union totale de tous les pays arabes serait prématurée pour le moment. A la place, trois ou quatre Etats devraient être créés avec le souci d'homogénéité, d'unité géographique et de suffisance de ressources (actuelles ou potentielles).

Finalement, les deux hommes se mirent d'accord pour créer trois entités seulement: l'Union de l'Afrique du Nord (en abrégé UAN), l'Union de la Mer Rouge (UMR) et l'Union du Croissant Fertile (UCF).

L'UAN devait inclure la Libye, la Tunisie, l'Algérie, le Maroc, la Mauritanie et le Sahara occidental. Avec plus de six millions de kilomètres carrés (dont la majeure partie serait désertique), elle compterait environ soixante millions d'habitants.

L'UMR devait inclure la totalité de la presqu'île d'Arabie (y compris le Yémen), l'Egypte, le Soudan, la Somalie, et Djibouti. Avec plus de sept millions de kilomètres carrés (également en majeure partie désertique), elle compterait un peu plus de cent millions d'habitants.

L'UCF devait inclure le Koweït, l'Irak, la Syrie, le Liban, la Jordanie et une partie de la Palestine (la Cisjordanie et Gaza). Avec seulement sept cent quarante mille kilomètres carrés, elle compterait environ trente millions d'habitants.

En outre, l'UCF, flanquée d'Israël, de l'Iran et de la Turquie -trois Etats dont les relations passées avec les voisins arabes ont toujours été plus ou moins ten-

des- serait chargée de la délicate mission de former avec ceux-ci un marché commun, noyau d'un grand marché économique qui inclinerait dans l'avenir les deux autres nouvelles Unions arabes.

Chaque de ces trois Unions sera en fait une fédération entre plusieurs provinces, chacune jouissant d'une grande autonomie.

Les frontières des futures provinces ne devront pas nécessairement correspondre à celles des Etats actuels: elles devront prendre en compte une certaine homogénéité ethnique, une certaine consistance géographique ainsi qu'un nombre d'habitants ne dépassant pas dix millions mais ne descendant pas en deçà de deux millions.

Concernant les régimes politiques et économiques à adopter, Sharif suggéra, et Bush accepta, que la démocratie parlementaire basée sur le suffrage universel devrait prévaloir. Chaque province aura sa propre chambre des représentants et son propre gouverneur, tous élus (exception faite de certains gouverneurs, pendant une période transitoire de cinq ans).

«Du point de vue économique», continua Sharif, l'économie de marché devra prévaloir, sauf dans certains domaines concernant la sécurité, l'énergie, l'éducation et la santé. Chaque province aura droit à un certain pourcentage (n'excédant pas 15%) des revenus résultant de l'exploitation de ses ressources minières. Le reste étant remis au gouvernement fédéral. Celui-ci, après avoir prélevé ses dépenses, devra redistribuer le surplus de ses recettes aux différentes provinces en fonction du nombre de leurs habitants.

A ce point, les deux hommes, fatigués, se séparèrent en se promettant de se rencontrer une semaine plus tard pour poursuivre leurs discussions concernant leur projet de nouvel ordre arabe.

Sabri Farah

Téléphone public en France

Ces puces qui protègent les cabines

Depuis cinq ans la cabine téléphonique à carte remplace progressivement, en France, la vieille cabine à pièces. Une évolution qui, au-delà d'intégrer les progrès de la technologie électronique (avec ses «puces»), met fin au pillage de ces «boîtes à sous» et limite ainsi les dysfonctionnements du réseau de téléphones publics. Parallèlement, une nouvelle race de collectionneurs a fait son apparition: après la philatélie, voici venu le temps de la «télécartomanie».

Les PTT se frottent les mains: plus de trois Français sur quatre sont satisfaits des cabines téléphoniques. Ils étaient moins d'un sur deux en 1985. A cette époque, le parc français était dans un triste état: cabines inutilisables, soit parce que le combiné était arraché, soit parce qu'il était impossible d'introduire une pièce dans les fentes, bouchées par des chewing-gums...

Les cabines étaient en effet une des cibles favorites des vandales, qui employaient les grands moyens pour voler les pièces: des «puciers» ou «pucettes» qu'ils contenaient. Il fallait trouver une parade: après quelques tâtonnements, le salut est venu de... la puce électronique, ou plus exactement de la «carte à puce», également connue sous le nom de «carte à mémoire».

Sortie tout droit du cerveau d'un inventeur français, Roland Moréno, la carte à mémoire ressemble à s'y méprendre à n'importe quelle carte bancaire, mais à la différence de celle-ci, elle est équipée, dans un coin, d'une petite mémoire électronique, dans laquelle sont stockées des informations. En théorie, ces informations peuvent être de toute nature. Mais dans le cas de la «télécarte», il s'agit d'une somme d'argent: lorsque l'usager téléphone, la mémoire se vide progressivement du montant de la communication.

Plus de manipulation d'argent, plus de communication interrompue au milieu d'une conversation faute de petite monnaie...

Les PTT ont vite compris le parti qu'ils pouvaient tirer de la télécarte, dont la production a été confiée à Bull et Schlumberger. Ils se sont donc lancés dans un vaste programme pour remplacer les cabines à pièces par des «publiphones à carte»: en 1985, 7.500 cabines à carte sont installées, chiffre qui est monté à 18.500 en 1986, 29.500 en 1987 et 43.000 fin 1988. Au total, sur les 170.000 cabines françaises, 56.000 fonc-

tionnaient à la fin de 1989 avec des cartes, chiffre qui sera porté à 71.000 en fin d'année 1990.

Le vandalisme a été si bien enrégulé que le taux de dérangements des publiphones a été divisé par dix en quatre ans, passant de 107 pour mille en 1985 à 9,9 pour mille en 1989. Dans le même temps les dérangements dépassant quatre jours (67 pour mille en 1985) ont quasiment disparu.

La première année, deux millions de télécartes ont été vendues dans des bureaux de tabac, postes, gares... Chiffre qui est monté lentement en puissance au fil des ans. Aujourd'hui, on en est à 100 millions! Mieux, les cartes ont doucement changé de look, devenant un espace publicitaire ou commémoratif et se vendant comme tel. Ce qui permet, notamment, de couvrir le coût de fabrication (aux alentours de cinq francs).

Mais de fil en aiguille, une nouvelle mode est apparue: la «télécartomanie». Les usagers se sont mis à raffoler des petites cartes de téléphone. Le virus se propage à grande vitesse: les plus touchés n'hésitent pas à téléphoner aux journalistes pour se procurer tel ou tel exemplaire particulièrement rare... Une vraie bourse des cartes se développe, avec ses cours et ses transactions; ainsi, les premières cartes mises en circulation s'attachent à prix d'or, voyant leur prix grimper jusqu'à 10.000 francs. La mode se développe à l'étranger, notamment au Japon où les collectionneurs achètent les télécartes en double: la première sert à téléphoner, la seconde va tout droit dans les albums. Le phénomène est tel que, non contents d'éditer leur catalogue, les «fanas» ont tenu une foire à la mi-mai à Paris, à l'espace Pierre Cardin... Tout ça parce que de petits vandales cassaient les cabines téléphoniques. Etonnant!

Françoise Baroché

Vous écrivez?

Si la plume vous démange, que vous écrivez en français... «Le Jourdain» vous ouvre ses deux pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions y sont les bienvenues.

Jean-Marc Bordes, French section, Jordan Times.
P.O. Box 6719. Tél: 667171.

A L'AFFICHE

Cinéma et littérature

Souvenirs troublés d'une enfance insouciante

Dernier de la série «Voir un film; lire un livre» au Centre culturel américain, *To kill a Mockingbird* (Des silences et des ombres, de Robert Mulligan, 1962) est un bon choix. Ce film est connu pour être une œuvre proposant un plaidoyer anti-raciste, à travers l'histoire d'un avocat blanc qui défend un homme noir injustement accusé de viol par les habitants d'une petite ville d'Alabama. Mais la narration est plus complexe. La structure du film dévoile implicitement les forces qui peuvent conduire une personne à s'adonner à un travail littéraire. Le film -présenté les dimanche 21 et jeudi 25 octobre- a l'heur de nous ramener au roman d'Harper Lee.

En adaptant le livre à l'écran, Horton Foote a abouti à un scénario ramassé. Par une série de séquences qui constituent presque à elles seules chacune une histoire, très brièvement introduite par une voix off, il illustre les souvenirs les plus lointains d'une femme appelée Scout (Mary Badham) qui avait six ans au moment des faits. Parmi ces incidents qu'elle se remémore, il se trouve des éléments contradictoires qui l'avaient dépassée à l'époque, mais qui reviennent à hanter dans sa vie adulte, suffisamment pour qu'elle se sente contrainte de nous les raconter. Cette évocation éveille la curiosité du spectateur à l'égard de la narratrice, le poussant à chercher dans le roman les éléments que le film -moyen de langage télégraphique- n'a pu évoquer.

Cette personne, on ne la verra jamais; on ne l'entendra dans le film, bien construit, que de temps en temps. Durant ses silences, on observe les ombres qu'elle s'efforce d'appréhender, deux incidents insolites et liés qui se sont infiltrés dans le train-train de son quotidien insouciant: la défense éloquent mais manquée que son père avocat entreprend pour le bénéfice de l'accusé noir, et le fait que le croque-mitaine -un attardé mental dont les adultes racontent des histoires à faire frémir- lui sauvera la vie et celle de son frère, Jem. Ces deux figures continuent de la fasciner.

Le film présente la particularité intéressante d'être truffé de petits joyaux cinématographiques (jeu, photographie, musique, scénario) qui n'en font pas pour autant, dans l'ensemble, une œuvre saisissante.

Le film commence par une sorte de poème visuel mêlant la violence à l'innocence d'un de ces souvenirs: l'image d'une boîte de bibelots et de babioles dont fait cadeau aux enfants cette personne mystérieuse qui les effraie tant. Ce début contient aussi le titre du film, *To kill a Mockingbird*, qui évoque un oiseau chanteur à qui le croque-mitaine sera comparé. Plus que l'oiseau moqueur qui ne fait que chanter et plaire, Boo (Robert Duvall) se révélera être l'ange gardien protecteur de ces deux petits bouts, Scout et Jem, contre cette irruption du racisme dans leur vie. Il fera ainsi ce que le père avocat, Atticus Finch (Gregory Peck) n'a pu réussir, en dépit de ses principes, de sa rectitude: de l'éducation qu'il essaie d'inculquer à ses enfants et de l'énorme effort qu'il déploie pendant le procès de l'homme noir pour tenter d'imposer un concept de justice à une population hypocrite et vicieuse.

Dans son travail de réalisateur, Robert Mulligan a rassemblé une compagnie d'interprètes convaincants. Evitant tout ton de nostalgie, il dépeint fidèlement la psychologie de ces gosses pour qui tout est mystère dans cette petite ville endormie, et qui restent ignorants des vrais dangers menaçant les enfants d'un père libéral. La photo noir et blanc de Russel Harlan accentue l'atmosphère du bourg, où la lumière est trop éclatante, les ombres trop épaisses et les silences infiniment pesants. Soulignant cette ambiance, les partitions d'Elmer Bernstein -une combinaison de mélodies enfantines et d'atonalité- augmentent le sentiment de menace. Cette musique nous rappelle aussi un peu l'état d'âme de la narratrice à qui l'étrange concomitance d'une grande injustice et d'un miracle inattendu, il y a bien longtemps, donne encore à réfléchir. Elle donne aussi à réfléchir au spectateur qui pourrait éprouver le besoin d'en savoir plus sur la vie de cet auteur tourmenté dont *To kill a Mockingbird* (prix Pulitzer en 1961) fut le seul et unique roman.

Sami Kamel

Allemagne

An début de ce mois, deux pays ont disparu de la carte européenne pour donner naissance à un tout nouveau pays: l'Allemagne de l'est (RDA) et l'Allemagne de l'ouest (RFA) ont cédé la place à l'Allemagne unifiée. Connaissiez-vous les principales caractéristiques de ce nouvel Etat? Voici, à toutes fins utiles, sa «carte d'identité».

NOM: République Fédérale d'Allemagne (au moins dans un premier temps).

CAPITALE: Berlin.

SIEGE DU GOUVERNEMENT: Bonn pour l'instant, mais revendiqué par Berlin.

SUPERFICIE: 357.000 km2.

POPULATION: 78,7 millions d'habitants.

DRAPEAU: Noir, rouge et or.

HYMNE NATIONAL: Deutschlandlied.

MONNAIE: Deutschmark (DM).

PRODUIT NATIONAL BRUT: 2.750 milliards de DM (1.720 milliards de dollars).

PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE: Richard von Weizsaecker (Chrétien Démocrate, CDU, 70 ans).

CHANCELIER FEDERAL: Helmut Kohl (CDU, 60 ans).

RELIGIONS: Essentiellement chrétienne (environ 32 millions de protestants et 27 millions de catholiques romains).

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

«Après la guerre». Film de Jean-Loup Hubert, avec Richard Bohringer présenté dans le cadre du festival «Cinéma français 1989» que propose le CCF au Centre Culturel Royal. Un pacifiste, las de la guerre, abrite les incessantes querelles de deux enfants au sujet de l'identité inconnue du père du cadet.

Centre Culturel Royal, le dimanche 21 octobre à 20h15, sous-titré en arabe.

«La vie est un long fleuve tranquille». Film d'Etienne Chatiliez, avec Benoît Magimel et Valérie Lalande, présenté, lui aussi, dans le cadre du festival «Cinéma français 1989». La rencontre de deux familles totalement différentes par leur mode de vie et de pensée.

Centre Culturel Royal, le lundi 22 octobre à 20h15, sous-titré en arabe.

«To kill a Mockingbird». Ce film s'inspire du roman de Harper Lee (1960) qui fut malheureusement sa seule contribution à la littérature américaine mais remporta alors le prix Pulitzer. Elle y raconte le procès spectaculaire d'un homme noir accusé d'avoir violé une femme blanche, à travers le regard d'une petite fille de huit ans, la fille de l'avocat de la défense, Gregory Peck raconte qu'il a trouvé dans ce film le plus grand rôle de sa carrière, celui de l'avocat, Atticus Finch. Voir FOCUS.

Centre Américain, le dimanche 21 et jeudi 25 octobre, à 19h.

«La Traviata». Premier d'une série de quatre films d'opéra présentés ce mois-ci. Celui-ci s'inspire de la fameuse œuvre en quatre actes de Giuseppe Verdi, racontant l'histoire de Violetta Valery, demi-mondaine parisienne, et Alfred Germont, son premier et son seul vrai amour.

Institut Goethe, le samedi 27 octobre à 20h.

«Angel». Lors d'une représentation de son groupe, le saxophoniste Danny assiste à l'assassinat du directeur du groupe et d'une jeune fille qu'il vient de rencontrer. Plutôt que de faire confiance aux détectives chargés de l'enquête, Danny décide de rechercher lui-même les assassins.

Centre britannique, le mardi 23 octobre à 17h.

17h30 - Téléfilm policier de la série «Le Saint» - Le Journal.
19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

18h00 - L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.
18h10 - Deaver, le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.
18h35 - Ce n'est du cinéma. Série sur les techniques du cinéma depuis l'époque de Charlie Chaplin.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h00 - Scientikids. Les concepts scientifiques de base, manipulés par des enfants à travers des expériences simples.
18h10 - L'école des fans. Des enfants interprètent le répertoire d'un chanteur célèbre, sous la houlette de Jacques Martin.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - Destination Santé. Série documentaire médicale.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de variétés, autour de Charles Aznavour.

JEUDI

18h00 - L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.
18h10 - «Snorky»: dessin animé.
18h35 - Splendeurs sauvages. Documentaire sur la vie des animaux.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Reportage sur le Japon.

VENREDI

17h30 - Téléfilm policier de la série «Les cinq dernières minutes».
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Les révolutions de l'intelligence. Série documentaire sur l'histoire de la science.

SAMEDI

18h00 - Les fruits de la passion. Le parcours de sportifs célèbres.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine culturel.

DIVERS

Musique. Atelier de présentation des méthodes d'éducation musicale de Carl Orff, sous la direction de M. Nuri Ruheibani. Institut Goethe, le samedi 27 octobre, à partir de 9h.

EXPOSITIONS

Architecture. Présentation photographique d'une sélection d'ouvrages (habitations, universités, villages de vacances, ponts, etc...) construits récemment aux quatre coins du monde par des architectes français. Centre Culturel Français, jusqu'à la fin du mois.

JEUX

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

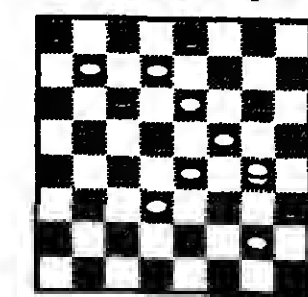
PROUST. Près de douze ans après la révolution islamique, «Du côté de chez Swann» du romancier français Marcel Proust vient de faire une apparition remarquée, en bonne place dans les librairies iraniennes. Pour la première fois, le public iranien va ainsi pouvoir lire en persan une œuvre de Proust, considéré en Iran comme l'un des écrivains les plus complexes de la littérature française du XXème siècle. La traduction est l'œuvre de Mehdi Sabahi, qui met actuellement la dernière main à la deuxième partie de l'œuvre de Proust: «A l'ombre des jeunes filles en fleurs».

CERCUEILS. Deux hommes d'affaires sud-africains ont mis au point un produit unique en son genre: le cercueil en carton, trois fois moins cher que le meilleur marché des traditionnels modèles en bois. Capable de porter une charge de plus de 200 kg, le cercueil en question est composé de deux pièces (réceptacle et couvercle) en pâte de carton moulée. Son aspect extérieur ne le distingue en rien des modèles classiques en bois.

100 x 2. Des jumeaux centenaires ont soufflé ensemble leurs 200 bougies à Salaman, dans la région de Bordeaux (sud-ouest de la France). Nés le 30 septembre 1890, Georges et Robert Bonit ne se sont jamais séparés, sauf pendant la guerre de 1914-18. Ils ont vu ensemble les premiers films de Louis Lumière et les tramways à cheval qui desservaient Bordeaux au début du siècle. Secret de leur longévité, les deux frères n'ont jamais bu et jamais fumé.

DAMES

Problème N. 33. Les blancs gagnent en sept coups.



ECHECS

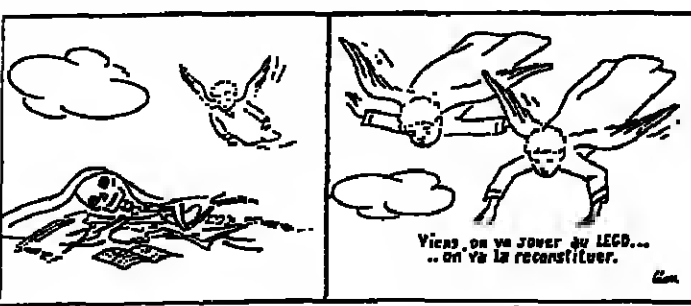
Problème N. 33. Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 32: Solution du problème N. 32:

B. 4-8; N. 10-3; B. 11-15; N. 20-11; B. 19-15; N. 28-12; B. 8-6; N. 3-19; B. 30-21.

PASSEZ-MOI MON DESSIN



London, Amsterdam square off in battle for European stock index

LONDON (R) — London and Amsterdam are vying to become the home of a new Europe-wide share price index to capitalise on the European Community's (EC's) single market after 1992.

As world stock markets observed the third anniversary of the 1987 Black Monday crash Friday, traders and analysts said that what amounts to a two-horse race is heating up to establish a benchmark index for leading European shares.

"The catalyst is the single European (Community) market, with common interest rates and monetary policy, which can be hedged through a European index," said Keat Foo, options trader at Paribas Ltd in London.

"This could avoid having to manage funds on a country-by-country basis," he added.

London and Amsterdam have recently introduced indices of top European stocks designed ultimately to feed the booming futures and options markets in which both centres want to expand.

The new Euro-indices allow investors to see at a glance how European markets are performing, much as the FTSE 100 index

provides a window on British shares and the CAC-40 and DAX-30 do for French and German shares.

"London and Amsterdam have stolen a march on any other centres planning new indices," said a futures and options analyst at brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd (BZW) in London.

Paribas's Foo said: "Anyone can build a Euro-index, but the research that goes into the index's components is crucial."

London's International Stock Exchange (ISE) is testing a new real-time European index of 100 major continental and Irish stocks prior to an Oct. 29 launch.

Called the Financial Times/Stock Exchange Eurotrack 100 index (F.T.S.E. Eurotrack 100), the new index will take stock prices from the ISE's stock exchange automated quotation service (SEAO). Initially, Eurotrack will exclude British stocks, but an all-Europe index will be launched in 1991.

Eurotrack's main rival, the Dutch-based European Options Exchange's Euro Top 100 index, launched in July, nosed ahead in the race with London this week by announcing a deal with the

American Stock Exchange (Amex).

The European Options Exchange (EOE) said New York-based Amex could begin trading in derivative products, such as futures and options, based on the Euro Top 100 by end of 1990.

Other European indices have been mooted — in France, the United States, Belgium and one based on Pipe, a proposed pan-European share price information system being developed jointly by European exchanges, including London's ISE.

"Now the first two have been introduced it's going to be extremely difficult for the others to get going, it's more than likely to develop into a head-to-head, possibly with the two products serving two different markets," the BZW analyst said, adding Eurotrack was aimed more at U.K. fund managers wanting to hedge their European stock portfolios while Euro Top aimed at continental fund managers.

But not everyone is as enthusiastic about the new indices. "Quite frankly the indices are so imprecise, as to be almost valueless," said one leading broker's European investment strategist.

North Africans plan free trade zone by '92

ALGIERS (R) — Foreign and economic ministers from the five-member Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) have drawn up plans for a free trade zone before the end of 1992, the official Algerian APS news agency reported Friday.

The zone, to be followed by a customs union before 1995, was a step towards setting up a North African common market by the end of the century, it said.

The ministers, meeting in Algiers since Tuesday, drew up the plans in an economic action charter which is a blueprint for economic integration of the AMU member states — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

The ministers discussed creation of a Maghreb investment bank and a commercial and customs agreement Thursday.

APS said the ministers were unable to agree on compensation for losses that would be sustained by products from certain member states when a free trade zone becomes operational.

EC, Gulf states map out differences in trade talks

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) and six Gulf states charted their main differences in the first round of talks on a free trade accord, an EC spokesman said Friday.

"There was an exchange of information on the starting point on each side," the spokesman said after the two-day talks.

The EC's margin for flexibility is limited by the negotiating brief which of the 12 member governments gave the EC's executive commission last December. But Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has raised the political stakes as the EC seeks closer ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, its main allies in the region.

EC Mediterranean Commissioner Abel Matutes will report to EC foreign ministers in Luxembourg Monday. It will be up to him to propose broadening the

commission's mandate.

"There will certainly be a need for an evolution in our position. They won't accept it as it is," one EC source said.

The main sticking point was the EC's wish to gradually eliminate protection in sensitive sectors over up to 16 years, EC sources said.

The GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, wants quicker liberalisation.

The Gulf states have the EC to narrow a trade deficit that stood at \$4.4 billion in 1988 by lifting duties on their aluminium and petrochemical products.

EC petrochemical companies are concerned at the prospect of cut-price imports from an emerging Gulf petrochemical industry supplied with cheap local oil.

U.S. Senate approves forgiveness of Egypt debt

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Friday approved a solemn public promise to Egypt on the debt and that to go back on the promise would harm U.S. relations with Cairo and might well lead to withdrawal of Egyptian troops from Saudi Arabia where they are deployed alongside American forces.

The administration had said Egypt could not repay the debt and asked its forgiveness in recognition of the economic hardship inflicted on Egypt by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and of its support of U.S. operations in Saudi Arabia.

The Senate rejected by a 55-42 vote an amendment to a \$15.5 billion foreign aid bill calling for restructuring rather than cancellation of the debt and for other countries to share the burden of helping Egypt.

The House version of the bill does not contain the debt provision and the issue will have to be resolved in a House-Senate conference on the bill.

Administration supporters said

President George Bush had made a solemn public promise to Egypt on the debt and that to go back on the promise would harm U.S. relations with Cairo and might well lead to withdrawal of Egyptian troops from Saudi Arabia where they are deployed alongside American forces.

Opponents of the debt forgiveness said it would set a bad precedent for other debts and asked why U.S. allies such as Germany, Japan and Saudi Arabia were not taking the burden.

They predicted that Egypt would use the debt forgiveness to pay its debts to other nations.

Supporters of the administration acknowledged that the issue presented the Senate with a difficult vote at a time when Congress is wrestling with a deficit reduction plan that would cut government programs and impose new taxes.

Senator Tom Harkin, an Iowa

Democrat, said Congress was trying to find money for medicare and farmers and asked, "Why is it that United States taxpayers have to foot the bill?"

Senator John Shafee, a Rhode Island Republican, likened the debt forgiveness to President Franklin Roosevelt's decision to give 50 old destroyers to Britain during World War II.

He said that decisions were attacked at the time but were later seen as the right thing to do.

Senator Daniel Inouye said that if rejection of the debt plan caused Egypt to pull its troops out of Saudi Arabia, the U.S. forces would lose their legitimacy as part of an international effort to oppose Iraq.

"To break this promise at this stage would have a devastating effect (on Operation Desert Shield) and on the American men and women we have sent there," the Hawaii Democrat said.

Wall Street's mood is glum three years after crash

NEW YORK (R) — Three years after the stock market crash, Wall Street brokers say trading has become so quiet they can hear their bank accounts drop.

Even the U.S. market's recent rise has provided only a fleeting boost of confidence.

"I've never seen it this bad," said the chief of one Wall Street trading floor, where millions of dollars change hands daily.

His assessment came Thursday as the Dow Jones industrial average scored its second-highest gain of the year, rising 64.85 points to close at 2,452.72. The index was up again Friday morning — but the gains are not enough to reverse the more than 20 per cent drop since mid-July.

Although Wall Street firms as a whole posted a profit in the third quarter of 1990, earnings have been falling since the heady days of the 1980s bull market.

"The securities industry is starting a depression in the face — not in the economy, but in the industry," said Perrin Long of Lipper Analytical Services.

Volume has slid to an average of 140 million shares a day on the big board, barely enough to make a trading profit. The mergers and acquisitions business has dried up, and markets from high-risk, high-yield "junk" bonds to mortgage-backed securities have shrunk to insignificance.

Wall Street brokerage firms have lost more than 40,000 jobs since the 1987 crash and Long thinks 15,000 more may be cut within a year.

"When you have layoffs and cutbacks, people are not going to be dancing on Broad and Wall Streets," said Shearson Lehman Bros Vice President Charles Lewis, referring to the heart of the lower Manhattan financial district.

"There are a lot of people in the business who have not lived through this type of market. They are not used to people saying, 'I don't want to buy or sell any-'

thing," he said. Even Wall Street's taste for black humour prevalent in the frenzied takeover days of the 1980s, has lapsed in the general malaise.

"I'm coming up dry. The mood's kind of glum," said a trader who in the past parlayed humour out of the grimmest events.

Such despair was not evident in the days following the record 508-point drop in the Dow index on Oct. 19, 1987.

Although the market's decline since its peak in mid-July falls short of the 37 per cent drop in 1987, the standoff in the Middle East over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the budgetary wrangling in Washington have confused investors, said William Lefavre of Adventist Inc.

"It's like they turned off the water faucet — I've never seen things come to a halt so quickly," he said. "When they don't know what's happening, they sit on their hands."

Mack Trucks projects \$180m loss

ALLENTOWN, Pennsylvania (AP) — Mack Trucks Inc. has increased its projected loss for the year by 38 per cent, saying questions about the U.S. economy and the Midwest crisis will cost the company \$180 million in 1990.

If the economic and political uncertainties continue into the next year, Mack also predicts a difficult 1991, when more stringent emission standards will increase truck prices.

The statement said the company now expects sales to total \$1.67 billion, compared with the \$1.5 billion predicted earlier. Mack also originally predicted a loss of \$130 million.

In making the original estimates, the company counted on companies buying trucks in the coming months to offset the price increases next year. But no surge has occurred, Mack said.

Mack cited the overall de-

teriorating heavy-duty truck market and continued uncertainty about the economy. The company also cited Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the resulting increase in oil prices.

The Allentown truck maker lost \$97 million for the first half of the year and went into default on major bank loans. Renault Vehicules Industries (RVI), which holds a 44.6 per cent stake in Mack, has made a bid to acquire all of the company's stock.

Navistar International Corp. of Chicago, which lost \$10 million in the first half of the year, also has said it will make a bid for Mack if RVI pulls out.

Mack cited the overall de-

Drive carefully! Traffic can be hazardous

Budget talks restart after Bush agrees to keep government open

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. congressional negotiators began to work through the weekend to reach a compromise measure on the budget deficit after President George Bush signed a temporary spending measure to keep the government running.

The House of Representatives and Senate had passed the new five-day extension Friday to give themselves time to stitch together a plan that would reconcile their two very different deficit-cutting packages.

Democratic and Republican leaders said both sides expected to make compromises.

"President Bush wants a package. There is no way we will get what we want," Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas told reporters late Friday.

Earlier in the week, Bush had threatened to veto any temporary funding measure and allow the government to shut its doors at midnight Friday — as it did earlier this month — unless they were making progress.

The government ran out of operating money Oct. 1, when its annual funding expired without a new budget. It has run on stopgap measures since then, including one approved two weeks ago that was due to expire at midnight

Friday. Nearly a dozen joint committees from the House and Senate planned to meet through the weekend to blend their different deficit-cutting packages. They are eager to finish by midweek in order to go home to campaign for reelection on Nov. 6.

Legislators are struggling to agree on a package of tax increases and social welfare spending cuts which would save \$40 billion in the first year of a five-year plan intended to slash the budget deficit by a total of \$500 billion.

Half of that total will come through spending reductions in separate defence, foreign aid, and domestic spending bills.

The House plan, features an income tax increase for the wealthiest Americans, raising the top bracket from 28 to 33 per cent, something Bush has said he would not accept.

The Senate package, which adds no new income taxes, hits the middle class hard, raising petrol tax from nine to 18.5 cents and cutting health care benefits for the elderly.

Bush has said he would sign the Senate bill but veto the House measure.

Michelin stock price plunges

PARIS (AP) — The price of Michelin shares plunged nearly 13 per cent Friday, and the tire maker's projections of massive 1990 losses became the subject of an investigation by the stock exchange's watchdog commission.

The Bourse Operations Commission said it will investigate the conditions under which Michelin, the world's biggest tire company, disclosed projections of its 1990 results.

The commission also will look into trading of Michelin stock, which fell sharply Thursday after the company forecast a consolidated 1990 loss at least 2.31 billion francs (\$450 million).

Michelin announced the projections Thursday during a briefing for about 100 financial analysts and journalists, but asked them not to use or disclose them until 30 minutes after the stock market closed.

Reports of the projections leaked out ahead of schedule, triggering a sharp drop in the company's stock and a temporary trading halt. The stock finished the day with a drop of 6.80 francs, or 9.1 per cent, to 68 francs a share.

Michelin executives attributed the unexpectedly large losses to the company's \$1.5 billion takeover of Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Co. last year, weaker car and tire markets, and the appreciation of the franc against the dollar and other currencies.

Company officials said Michelin will have to increase its cash flow by 2.5 billion francs in order to break even by the end of next year. They envisaged job cuts affecting production, commercial and administrative employees.

Algeria sees early end to economic hardships

ALGIERS (R) — Economy Minister Ghazi Hedouci said Thursday Algeria would emerge from its economic crisis next June, a year ahead of forecast because of higher oil prices from the Gulf crisis.

"Because of the oil prices we can raise our heads abroad and at home. They will allow us to say that we will not solve this crisis in three years but in eight months," Hedouci told Algerian radio.

World oil prices doubled to over \$40 a barrel after Iraq invaded Kuwait and are now around \$33 a barrel, Algeria, plunged into economic crisis in the mid-1980s by falling oil prices, depends on oil and gas for almost all its hard currency revenue.

Hedouci said Algeria, with a foreign debt of \$25 billion, came close to defaulting on external payments earlier this year but could now advance projections of economic recovery.

Extra oil revenue, estimated at more than \$1.4 billion this year, was a historic opportunity to speed up reforms designed to convert to a market economy by next year, Hedouci said.

He urged public sector managers to work harder and show more initiative and dismissed critics who say the reforms threaten the giant state firms built up under socialist policies in the 1970s.

"The public sector dominates the economy and we want it to start up as soon as possible with clean balance sheets," he said. "At no time have we considered that the public sector should be privatised or abandoned."

Laura Ashley to curtail operations

LONDON (AP) — Laura Ashley Holdings PLC, the British clothing and home furnishings retailer, has said it would close seven factories and cut 1,500 jobs, or nearly a fifth of its work force.

The company said the moves were part of an ongoing cost-cutting programme it began last year. It attributed the closures and cuts to a need to counter the effects of a strong British pound

and high inflation. The company said it would be left with 6,650 workers and two manufacturing facilities.

It said 1,000 of the job cuts would result from the factory closures, while the other 500 cuts would come from its worldwide retail operations.

"If Laura Ashley is to survive in today's highly competitive environment, it is no longer viable

to source the current level of garments worldwide from our U.K. factories when products of similar quality can be obtained at a significantly lower cost from other suppliers in other countries," Chairman Bernard Ashley said.

The company said it would maintain enough in-house garment-making capacity to respond to quick changes in market.

TODAY AT

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Starring Judi Foster Mark Harmon

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Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

Noor Al Sharif & Bousli in **THE AGE OF HATEM ZAHRAH** (ARABIC)

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Richard Hatch & Tony Marsira in **LEATHER NECKS**

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

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Belgian troops to stay in Rwanda until ceasefire

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium said Saturday it would keep some 600 troops in Rwanda, its former Central African colony, until a ceasefire aimed at halting a civil war there comes into effect.

In his first public remarks since returning from a four-day peace trip to Central Africa Friday, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said the troops' mission to protect Belgian citizens in the country would soon be over.

"Once a ceasefire comes into effect, the presence of our forces on Rwandan soil will no longer be necessary. They will then be withdrawn immediately," he told parliament.

Belgian media have reported a split within the five-party coalition government on the issue, but Martens' comments suggest he was able to overrule reported demands from the Socialist Party to withdraw the elite paratroopers immediately.

Government officials have declined comment on the rift, but newspapers say the Socialists —

the main party sharing power with Martens' Christian Democrats — feel the military presence smacks of post-colonial interference.

Martens and his cabinet met for a long session Friday, but the prime minister postponed until Saturday a statement to parliament on Belgium's peace-keeping efforts.

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana said Thursday in Paris that he had accepted a Belgian plan calling for neutral troops to supervise a ceasefire between his army and the rebels who invaded from neighbouring Uganda three weeks ago.

The Belgian troops were sent two weeks ago to protect more than 1,600 Belgian nationals living in Rwanda, many of whom have since left the country.

France also has sent forces to protect its nationals in Rwanda and Zaire has deployed up to 1,500 troops to fight alongside Habyarimana's army.

Rwanda's ambassador to

Kenya said Friday that his government would support a European Community (EC) peacekeeping force to monitor the ceasefire.

Cyprien Habimana told a news conference in Nairobi the EC would move faster than the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to establish such a force.

He said the example of Liberia, where a West African peacekeeping force has failed to end a 10-month civil war, had helped persuade Rwanda to opt for European help.

The leaders of Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have called for an immediate ceasefire and a negotiated settlement.

The EC, which has no mechanism for military operations, called Thursday for an immediate ceasefire in the conflict, but it gave no sign of wanting to become directly involved.

The backbone of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) are Rwandan refugees living in Uganda, most of whom belong to Rwanda's minority Tutsi tribe.

Cheney to recommend veto of defence bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is signalling he will recommend a presidential veto of the 1991 defence bill because of deep cuts in major strategic weapons, lawmakers and congressional sources say.

"That's what I've heard from people who ought to know," said one House member, Jon Kyl of Arizona. He was one of 15 Republicans who were involved in negotiations on the bill but refused to sign the final package.

Cheney was to issue an official statement on his recommendation when the bill was filed formally in the House and Senate, said congressional sources who requested anonymity.

The House and Senate are expected to approve the negotiations' defence package by next week.

Meanwhile, the House approved a military construction bill that bans the use of federal funds to build an air base in Italy.

Cheney was on a 10-day trip to Britain, the Soviet Union and France and was scheduled to return to Washington Monday.

He has been informed by his office of the outcome of House and Senate negotiations on defence spending for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, spokesman Bob Hall said Thursday.

The bill sets military spending at \$288 billion, or \$19 billion less than President George Bush's administration requested last January.

A Defence Department official, who requested anonymity, said the Defence Department sent word to lawmakers Thursday night that Cheney is inclined to recommend a veto.

Meanwhile House and Senate negotiators reached agreement late Friday on an intelligence bill that would provide for a suspension of covert lethal aid to rebels in Angola if the Marxist government agrees to elections, sources said.

The bill, agreed to after day-long talks between the two intelligence committees, also would phase out a covert aid programme to Cambodian rebels and trim roughly \$50 million from President George Bush's \$300-million request for aid to rebels in Afghanistan.

The changes reflect dwindling support in Congress for proxy wars in the Third World that were a leading feature of President Ronald Reagan's anti-Communist crusade.

With thawing relations between the United States and the Soviet Union and reduction of Soviet support of client groups, much of the rationale for U.S. involvement in those conflicts has evaporated.

In a separate development, the Senate voted Friday to slash U.S. military aid to El Salvador in half to force political and military reforms in a country divided by a decade of civil war.

The 74-to-25 vote came as senators worked through a long list of amendments to a \$15.5-billion foreign aid bill for the year that began Oct. 1.

As debate on the bill continues, wrangling was expected over provisions to forgive \$6.7 billion in military debts Egypt owes the United States, and to give the Defence Department the authority to give Israel as much as \$700 million of new military equipment.

Mandela said De Klerk's National Party suggested it did not intend to give every South African an effective vote by saying whites must retain the right to decide whether a parliament's decision was in their interests or not.

"That means ... that in spite of the extension of the vote to everybody, the whites will still have the right of veto. We reject that. We say that apartheid cannot be destroyed by preserving apartheid," he said.

Mandela was warmly received by an audience that included Indonesians who fought for independence from Dutch colonial rule 45 years ago.

Meanwhile desegregation of swimming pools, toilets and other facilities once reserved for whites has changed little for millions of blacks who still face prejudice, poverty and hopelessness.

Repeal of the Separate Amenities Act on Oct. 15 was another step towards De Klerk's promised end to apartheid. "Whites only" signs were one of its most potent symbols.

Black leaders applauded the end of segregated facilities, but say prejudice is not disappearing and blacks still are excluded from many aspects of life. They say few whites appear willing to live with blacks and find few signs that racial attitudes are changing.

The Sowetan, South Africa's leading black newspaper, reported disillusionment growing among blacks because their lot has failed to improve with the scrapping of apartheid laws.

Lawyer of Bhutto's husband robbed of trial documents

KARACHI (R) — A lawyer defending the husband of sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was robbed at gunpoint and important case documents stolen, police said Saturday.

Raja Qureshi told police three masked gunmen robbed him of documents, cash and jewellery at his home Friday night.

Qureshi is defending Asif Ali Zardari against charges of extortion and banking malpractices. "The documents are very important for the defence of Mr. Zardari," he told reporters.

Zardari, in jail since his Oct. 10 arrest, is standing for election to the National Assembly in next Wednesday's polls.

He has been a major target of investigators since Bhutto was sacked by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August. She also faces six charges of abuse of power while in office.

Bhutto declared Friday her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was poised to win Pakistan's national elections next week but could be robbed of victory by vote-rigging.

"I expect to win a clear-cut majority despite pre-poll rigging unless there is massive rigging on election day itself," she said in an interview.

Bhutto said her political foes planned to rig the results in more than 30 of the 217 seats at stake next Wednesday.

Speaking before she addressed tens of thousands of banner-waving supporters in Rawalpindi, she said Pakistan's caretaker rulers planned to manipulate postal votes, distribute bogus identity cards and intimidate PPP election agents.

"When everything is so dirty, anything can happen," she said. At least two groups of international observers are due to monitor the elections, they did in the last polls in 1980 when they certified that the process was generally clean.

The Pakistan People's Party regards Ishaq Khan, who has told the government to ensure the polls are fair, as a fatally biased towards its foes in the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

Ishaq Khan and Bhutto have fought a running battle ever since she was ousted from power on Aug. 6.

Ishaq Khan has brought six cases against her alleging she abused her power during 20 months in office. A conviction on any of them could result in her being barred from parliament.

In return, Bhutto has made the 75-year-old president the major target of her rhetorical venom, saying the elections will be a referendum on his August action.

Asked if she thought Pakistan's military would accept her return to power so soon after being dismissed, she said the army was

probably genuine in saying it did not want a new declaration of martial law.

Pakistan has been under military rule for more than half its 43-year history.

Most political analysts predict the Pakistan People's Party will end up as the largest single party in the new assembly but is unlikely to have a majority.

Bhutto said the question of joining a national government was up to the party, but a senior party source said Bhutto would not be prepared to sit in a national cabinet even if some of her colleagues did.

She was allowed to take office in 1988 only after agreeing to conditions imposed by the military, including not interfering in military affairs.

If she wins again, Bhutto made clear she would not accept any dilution of her powers.

"The government must have not only the responsibilities but the power to deliver," she said. "In many areas we did have the responsibility but we did not have the powers."

Bhutto Friday said her dismissal prompted Washington to shelve a \$75 million aid package to Pakistan.

"America stopped its aid because democracy ended when my government was dismissed," she told a campaign rally six days before parliamentary elections.

Hindu party rejects temple proposals

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government has taken over a disputed religious site and has asked the supreme court for a quick verdict on an issue that threatens to topple the 11-month-old administration of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman issued an ordinance late Friday acquiring the land around a 16th-century mosque in the holy town of Ayodhya. Hindu fundamentalists want to build a temple to Ram, one of their most revered Gods, on the site.

Until the supreme court decides the issue, the mosque will remain and no temple construction can begin, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Parvathani Uppendrala told reporters after a late-night cabinet meeting.

Uppendrala said the government was also prepared to offer Hindus another portion of land near the site in Ayodhya town to build their temple.

The Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is spearheading the temple campaign, dismissed the proposals.

"It seems the government is more keen to assuage the sentiments and protect the interest of the Muslim community and disregard the sentiments of tens of millions of the overwhelming majority," party General Secretary J.P. Mathur told reporters.

The BJP executive board was meeting Saturday to work out its next moves, a party spokesman said.

The party is threatening to withdraw crucial support to the government in parliament if its plans to build the temple on what Hindus say is the site where Ram was born are thwarted.

Muslims, who number 100 million in India's overwhelmingly Hindu population of 850 million, bitterly oppose the temple plan which has triggered riots between the two religious communities, killing more than 1,000 people in the past year.

The temple construction is scheduled to begin on Oct. 30, when BJP President Lal Krishan Advani reaches Ayodhya; in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, at the end of a 10,000 kilometre cross-country journey.

The site has been fenced off and is guarded by paramilitary troops. Officials say another 17,000 paramilitary police have been sent to Uttar Pradesh to head off trouble.

Advani was in Bihar state bordering Uttar Pradesh Saturday. He is continuing his journey in a small truck decorated to look like a chariot from the time of Ram.

Ram is the hero of the Ramayana, an epic tale about how a ruler should act and a

popular folk tale elsewhere in Asia.

The 62-year-old, clerkish-looking Advani repeated his threat to withdraw support to Singh if he was arrested or his journey was stopped, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Officials have hinted that Advani may be taken into custody in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh to maintain law and order.

Thousands of supporters dressed in saffron-coloured clothes greeted him in the Bihar town of Dhanbad in traditional style by blowing conch shells, the news agency said.

The government takeover of the Ayodhya site also left Muslims unhappy.

"The government has no right to take over a religious site like a mosque or a graveyard," said Abdullah Bukhari, the spiritual leader of Indian Muslims.

Bukhari, Imam of New Delhi's Jama Masjid Mosque, told Reuters he would press the government to return the Ayodhya Mosque to Muslims.

"This is a mosque and can never be called a temple. We will take back the mosque at any cost from the government or anyone occupying it — and we are prepared for the worst," Bukhari said.

Some polls close in Malaysia as Mahathir urges landslide victory

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Polling ended in some rural areas of Malaysia Saturday, in general elections which pose the highest challenge yet to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad's ruling coalition.

Polling ended at 5 p.m. (0900 GMT) in interior areas of the states of Sabah and Sarawak, on Borneo island. Voting in other areas continues Sunday and results are expected to be announced Sunday night.

Election officials said turnout was poor in the polls, which are being monitored by a Commonwealth observer group.

Mahathir, whose group needs a two-thirds majority to push key bills through parliament, made a last-minute call for voters to give him a landslide victory and "silence" the opposition.

"We want to show there is no place for them in Malaysia," he told supporters in his northern home state of Kedah Saturday.

The ruling National Front is facing its strongest challenge to date from the country's first combined opposition alliance, headed by the breakaway Semangat 46 (Spirit of 46) party.

"Semangat 46 candidates should not get even a single seat," Mahathir said, adding that the party had been disloyal in breaking away from his United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party and should be taught a lesson.

Britain lifts block on EC ties with Vietnam

BRUSSELS (R) — Britain has lifted its veto of the European Community establishing diplomatic relations with Vietnam now Hanoi has agreed to the forced return of "boat people" from Hong Kong, EC sources said Friday.

Britain's decision, signalled at a meeting of senior Foreign Ministry officials this week, means the 12 EC foreign ministers can give the green light to diplomatic relations when they meet in Luxembourg next Monday.

Establishing relations with the Community as a whole rather than its individual members would clear the way for an EC aid package to help Vietnam resettle thousands of boat people who could be returned under the agreement, the sources said.

"Britain has lifted its objection and the ministers can agree this on Monday," one source said. A British Foreign Office

spokeswoman declined to comment other than to confirm that the issue would be discussed.

Western countries are refusing to take in some 50,000 Vietnamese boat people held in prison-like camps in Hong Kong because the vast majority are regarded as migrants seeking a better life rather than genuine refugees. As a result, the British console says their only option is to return home, willingly or not.

The forced repatriation to Vietnam last December of 51 men, women and children caused an international uproar and Hanoi said it would no longer accept people returning against their will.

But last month, Britain, Vietnam and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees negotiated a deal under which all Vietnamese returning home would be guaranteed humane treatment. The deal provides for monitoring to ensure they do not face reprisals.

Seoul frees pastor jailed for visiting North Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Saturday released a dissident pastor jailed last year for making an unauthorised trip to North Korea in 1989, a prison official said.

Moon Ik-Hwan, 72, was released from a hospital in southwestern Chonju where he has been having a check-up. He has a heart condition and problems with his thyroid gland.

Moon was serving a seven-year jail term at a Chonju prison, reduced from the original 10 years, for breaking South Korea's harsh anti-Communist national security law, which bans unofficial contact with the Communist North.

The prison official gave no more details about the release of Moon, a Protestant minister and adviser to the nationwide dissident organisation Chonminyon.

But South Korea's domestic news agency Yonhap said he was released because of his health.

His arrest and imprisonment, along with others who have made illegal visits to the north, has been cited by North Korea as a

main stumbling block to progress in North-South dialogue, which has accelerated in recent months.

Meanwhile opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung ended a 13-day hunger strike Saturday after the government party had agreed to accept his demand that local government elections be held sooner than planned.

But Kim and 69 other opposition lawmakers said they would continue to boycott the National Assembly until the ruling Democratic Liberal Party accepted other demands for democratic reforms.

"My struggle has paid off. I am ending the fast on the recommendation of our national assemblymen," Kim said at Seoul's Severance Hospital.

The 66-year-old opposition leader, who began the hunger strike on Oct. 8, was admitted to the Hospital Monday in deteriorating health. He continued the hunger strike under 24-hour medical observation. Doctors said Kim has lost about 6 kilograms.

Noriega trial bogged down in legal siege

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge tried Friday to speed up the stalled trial of former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, which has gotten bogged down in disputes over legal fees, a likely new indictment and the fate of his co-defendants.

Complicating the drug-trafficking case is the Panamanian government's \$5-billion lawsuit against Noriega, expected to be filed here as early as next week.

U.S. District Judge William Hoeveler called in prosecutors and the defence for a conference on the progress of the case, with an eye on the trial's scheduled Jan. 28 starting date.

"We've got to press on with this," Hoeveler insisted while acknowledging for the first time that the trial's start could be delayed until spring.

He warned he may be forced to remove Noriega's defence team — possibly reappointing them as federal attorneys — if they cannot get money from foreign banks to pay their expenses.

He added he may have to grant separate trials to minor co-defendants if the case drags on.

Noriega's attorneys said their hands are tied because not one penny has been released from frozen bank accounts, despite a

June agreement with the U.S. attorney's office.

The accounts at issue are all alleged to be Noriega's or controlled by him, often family members. There are 27 accounts at issue valued at about 20 million. They are located in London, Switzerland and other places.

"We are at square zero," lead attorney Frank Rubino said.

"Jan. 28 is unrealistic. If I got all the money in the world I couldn't investigate the case before then — I can't find a dozen investigators to work for free."

Sam Burstyn, attorney for former Noriega aide Luis Del Cid, says he believes the government is delaying to attain a plea bargain.

"It amounts to a legal siege — trial by attrition," Burstyn said. "I don't think the government ever intends to prosecute Noriega, and my client is being held hostage."

In a motion demanding Del Cid be released on bond, Burstyn noted that all sides are waiting for a superseding indictment against Noriega.

Diane Cossin, spokeswoman for U.S. attorney Dexter Lehtinen, denied the government was stalling, saying prosecutors would be ready by Jan. 28.

Indonesia donates \$10 million to ANC

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's President Suharto Saturday gave \$10 million to South Africa's anti-racist African National Congress, ANC leader Nelson Mandela said.

"It is my pleasure to tell you ... the president has granted us a donation of \$10 million, Mandela told a foreign affairs forum during his four-day visit to Indonesia.

"This donation ... guarantees our final victory. We will leave this country knowing that the days of oppression are numbered. This donation is the writing on the wall for those who once believed they would rule South Africa for centuries," he said.

Though violently anti-Communist, Indonesia has long supported the leftwing ANC in its struggle to end racial segregation in South Africa. Suharto told Mandela at a banquet Friday night that Indonesia looked to him as the future leader of South Africa.

Secretary of State Murdiono earlier told reporters Indonesia had also committed \$250,000 a year for three years in aid to the frontline states surrounding South Africa.

Mandela told Saturday's forum he was convinced President F.W. de Klerk, with whom the ANC has been holding talks, was genuine in his desire to dismantle apartheid but the measures he had taken did not go far enough.

"Mr. De Klerk is serious in his declaration that he wants fundamental change and he wants fundamental change soon," the black leader said. "He has already taken very interesting measures to scrap apartheid."

"But while of course from the white man's point of view these changes are very important, for us they are not so important. The demand is for ... one person one vote ... and we are still very far from that."

Mandela said De Klerk's National Party suggested it did not intend to give every South African an effective vote by saying whites must retain the right to decide whether a parliament's decision was in their interests or not.

"That means ... that in spite of the extension of the vote to everybody, the whites will still have the right of veto. We reject that. We say that apartheid cannot be destroyed by preserving apartheid," he said.

Mandela was warmly received by an audience that included Indonesians who fought for independence from Dutch colonial rule 45 years ago.

Meanwhile desegregation of swimming pools, toilets and other facilities once reserved for whites has changed little for millions of blacks who still face prejudice, poverty and hopelessness.

Repeal of the Separate Amenities Act on Oct. 15 was another step towards De Klerk's promised end to apartheid. "Whites only" signs were one of its most potent symbols.

Black leaders applauded the end of segregated facilities, but say prejudice is not disappearing and blacks still are excluded from many aspects of life. They say few whites appear willing to live with blacks and find few signs that racial attitudes are changing.

The Sowetan, South Africa's leading black newspaper, reported disillusionment growing among blacks because their lot has failed to improve with the scrapping of apartheid laws.

Soviet troops in Germany fall on hard times

BERLIN (AP) — The once-mighty Red Army has fallen on hard times in the new Germany. Its military mission is over, its presence is resented by many Germans, and its soldiers are deserting in droves to avoid going home.

Once they were crack front-line troops in the cold war. Now the Soviet soldiers stationed in what was East Germany find themselves a relic of a bygone era.

Final withdrawal of the 600,000 troops and dependents is not scheduled until 1994. Already, the strain is showing.

The Soviet forces are a heavy financial burden for newly unified Germany, now saddled with the enormous costs of the merger.

The Bonn government agreed to pay upwards of \$800 million this year to maintain the Soviets. Germany will also pay billions to retrain and build new housing for the troops.

"A nightmare" is how Heinrich Vogel, head of the Federal Institute for Soviet and International Studies, describes the problems associated with the presence of the Soviet troops.

The soldiers face uncertain futures in the Soviet Union, where jobs, housing, and food are scarce. The temptation is great to stay in newly reunited Germany, where life is easier and consumer goods abundant.

Some Soviet soldiers are resigned to going home, but want to buy as much as possible to take with them.

The entry to the Soviet base at Wuzendorf, south of Berlin, is a cross between a used-car lot and a Central Asian bazaar. Soldiers are snapping up everything from leather coats to used BMWs.

Others are deserting to try to stay in Germany. The Interior Ministry said Friday that 53 Soviet soldiers had registered for asylum in the last two months. The figure is almost certainly higher, as it takes weeks to register the cases.

Authorities in Berlin said 10 Soviet soldiers a day were seeking asylum before unity on Oct. 3. The number fell when the Soviet military introduced harsher punishment for deserters — the maximum penalty is death.

A German Foreign Ministry spokesman acknowledges the

problem is "delicate." The Bonn government, he said, is trying to work with the Soviet government on the desertion problem.

German government officials do not know how many Soviet troops will try to avoid returning home, but they agree that unity and Germany's liberal asylum laws make it easier to consider staying.

Desertion was almost impossible while the Berlin Wall stood. East German police were required by treaty to turn deserters over to the Soviet military.

Once the wall fell, a Soviet soldier could cross into West Germany and apply for asylum.

Police in unified Germany are not required to return deserters to Soviet military authorities, who have now stepped up patrols to curb desertions.

Although there is resentment of the Soviet presence, there is sympathy for the plight of individual soldiers. A week ago, Soviet military authorities were unmoved by an outpouring of civic support in Weimar for Oleg Luchak, a young Soviet deserter on trial.

A group of young Germans

sheltered the family and lawyer of the soldier, who said he left his unit because of "extreme necessity." Townspeople lit candles on a fence in front of the courtroom.

A week later, the Soviets reversed a longstanding policy of no fraternising between the soldiers and local residents. They invited the town to visit the base. A similar invitation has been extended to the residents of Frankfurt and Der Oder, a town on the Polish border.

Even before the new "open door" policy, the barrier between Germans and Soviet soldiers had begun to collapse. Soviet soldiers began receiving German currency on July 1.

But they found themselves second-class citizens in a land of plenty. A private's monthly wage is only \$16.

Violence, theft and corruption are on the rise among troops desperate for money.

Police report that hard-pressed Soviet soldiers are selling weapons including machine guns and grenades as well as uniforms. One officer reportedly rented out the men from his unit to help on a local collective farm.

COLUMN

Lightest alloy discovered

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet scientists have discovered the world's lightest alloy, the Soviet News Agency TASS said. It said the alloy, made by combining magnesium and lithium with aluminium, was already being used to make the fuselages of advanced MIG fighter aircraft. The aircraft industry had previously used aluminium alloys containing copper and magnesium, or zinc and magnesium, it said. "We proposed using lithium and magnesium in aluminium alloys... the flexibility and durability of the new material increased and the density lowered," the agency quoted Soviet academician Josef Fridlander as saying. TASS, which did not specifically name the alloy, said